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Curriculum

for the Master's Degree Programme

Worlds of English

Programme Code UL 066 812
(Version 24W.1)

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Worlds of English

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Section 1 General remarks

- (1) The Master's degree programme *Worlds of English* comprises 120 European Credit Transfer System credits (ECTS credits). This corresponds to an anticipated study duration of four semesters. The Master's degree programme *Worlds of English* is assigned to the group of studies in Arts and Humanities pursuant to Section 54 (1) of the Universities Act 2002 (hereinafter: UG).
- (2) The student workload related to the individual academic achievement is expressed in ECTS credits. The workload for one year should amount to 1,500 full hours, for which 60 ECTS credits are assigned (Section 54 (2) UG). The workload comprises independent study as well as the semester hours/contact hours, including participation in assessment procedures.
- (3) The Master's degree programme is conducted in English.

Section 2 Qualification profile and competences

- (1) The qualification profile describes the academic and professional qualifications that students acquire by completing the degree programme.
- (2) The Master's degree programme *Worlds of English* enables students of this subject, in the sense of preparatory academic vocational training, to become experts in the field of the English language, English linguistics, and Anglophone literatures and cultures. Thus, in the course of their studies, students acquire theoretical and practical skills in the English language and in various subject areas, both specialised and of general professional relevance. This gives them the opportunity to work in a variety of established and alternative professional fields after graduation. In the Master's degree programme *Worlds of English*, these competences are expanded and deepened, depending on the chosen specialization, particularly in the areas of linguistics, literary studies, and cultural studies. As a result, upon completion of the programme, students will not only possess subject-specific skills that can serve as a foundation for an academic career but will also have the cultural, methodological, and practical knowledge required to undertake responsible roles in business and politics, as well as in the arts and culture.
- (3) Such professional fields include: Archive and library work; diplomatic service; working as an editor at a publishing house; roles in the cultural sector; international cooperation in the field of education and science; work as a translator; roles in non-school and corporate education and training; work in the field of mass communication (press, radio, television), in advertising industry, and in the leisure and tourism sector; cross-border coordination or public relations work in businesses, corporations, public authorities, and associations; linguistically oriented professions: development of dictionaries, teaching materials, and more.
- (4) The required competences - both language-specific and in the context of Anglophone research concepts - are taught in the Required Subjects, and are consolidated and expanded in the respective Elective Subjects. These competences include:

- a) **Practical language skills.** These include: Complex knowledge of the English language, ranging from subtle text comprehension to the production of oral and written texts appropriate to the given situation; this also includes the ability to act as a text mediator between different cultural spaces.
- b) **Methodological competences.** These include: Familiarity with the techniques of intellectual work, e.g. critical information acquisition, information processing and information transfer; the acquisition of the respective necessary terminologies; knowledge of the principles of theory formation; skills in analytical thinking, in thinking in alternatives and in the synthetic comprehension of complex contexts, in independent research, in subject-specific reasoning, and in the creative application of the acquired knowledge and its transfer to new fields of activity; expertise and the ability to integrate and apply methods and knowledge in academic and professional practice in order to develop new insights in the academic sphere and advance developments in professional practice.
- c) **Reflective language skills.** These include: Insights into the structures, functions, and variations of language in general and varieties of English in particular; knowledge of its regional, social, and situational variants and their use in concrete discourse; understanding of the nature of sign systems and their historical conditionality; familiarity with linguistic approaches of description and the ability to establish and critically reflect on connections between language, culture, and society.
- d) **Competences in cultural studies.** These comprise: Skills in the differentiated, critically aware and independent handling of literary and other texts, films as well as cultural artefacts in general; competences in situating, analysing, and critically examining these within the framework of cultural theories and models of explanation.
- e) **Intercultural competences.** These include: The knowledge of subject-relevant cultural contexts; the ability to deal critically and objectively with current cultural, social, and political problems affecting Anglophone cultures, and the willingness to deal with different cultural experiences and attitudes in a mindful manner.
- f) **Humanitarian competences,** or the exercise of responsibility towards human society, in particular the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the equal treatment of all human beings.
- g) **Social competences** resulting from the experience of working methods such as teamwork, project work, working groups, or simulations.
- h) **Gender, intersectionality, and diversity competences.** This refers to the productive examination of issues pertaining to gender studies, intersectionality, and diversity, and a familiarity with claims, intentions, concepts, and research methods on these areas as critical science.
- i) **Global Citizenship competences** refer to the values and competences of modern education (Global Citizenship Education) for managing global challenges of the present and future through democratic participation and active involvement in

shaping local, regional, and global society. Global Citizens recognise economic, political, social, cultural, technological, and environmental contexts, critically question economic and political asymmetries from a history-critical perspective, and actively confront issues such as social injustice, human rights abuses, gender discrimination, racism, the destruction of ecosystems, and the exploitation of human and non-human life.

Section 3 Admission requirements

- (1) Admission to a Master’s degree programme is conditional upon the successful completion of a Bachelor’s degree programme in a relevant subject or another relevant degree programme of at least the same higher education level completed at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution or a degree programme defined in the curriculum of the Master’s degree programme (Section 64 (3) UG).
- (2) The Bachelor’s degree programme in English and American Studies or Worlds of English (UL 033 612) at the University of Klagenfurt qualifies as relevant in any case.
- (3) Individuals whose first language is not English are required to have English language skills at level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Section 4 Academic degree

Graduates of this Bachelor’s degree programme are awarded the academic degree of “Master” with the addition “of Arts” (abbreviated: “MA”). When carried, this academic degree must be listed after one’s name.

Section 5 Structure & organisation of the degree programme/intended learning outcomes

Subject/ academic achievement	Designation		Intended learning outcomes	ECTS credits
Required subjects	1	“Research Foundations”	Upon successful completion of the subject, students are able to define the key issues in a subject area, develop their own research questions based on these and have a basic knowledge of suitable analytical methods.	18
Guided electives (Choose 2 or 3)	2	“Linguistics”	The students are able to explain and apply selected methods and models in various areas of linguistics in a detailed and critical manner. They can situate these within the broader context of linguistics and reflectively relate them to the specialised field of their Master’s	48

			thesis, using existing research literature and adhering to academic standards.	
	3	“Literature and Culture Studies”	Students are able to explain selected areas of Anglophone cultures and literatures in their historical and theoretical contexts in a detailed and critical manner. They can situate these within the broader context of Anglophone cultural and literary studies and reflectively relate them to the specialised field of their Master’s thesis, using existing research literature and adhering to academic standards.	48
Open electives	4		Students explore specialized, supplementary and/or contrastive fields of knowledge.	12
Master thesis			Students are able to independently and reflectively engage with a subject-specific topic, drawing on existing research literature, and present it in writing in an appropriate manner.	30
Overall examination				12 (6+6)
Total				120

Section 6 Study-related period abroad/mobility

- (1) It is strongly recommended that all students of the Master’s degree programme complete a degree-related period of study abroad in an English-speaking country as part of their degree programme. In this regard, transnational EU, state or university mobility programmes can be used. Examinations and other academic achievements completed during a degree-related stay abroad shall be recognised in accordance with the provisions pursuant to Section 78 of the UG for examinations prescribed in the curriculum. A period of study abroad is recommended from the second semester onwards.
- (2) At the request of regular students who wish to carry out parts of their studies abroad, a preliminary decision shall be issued in advance to determine which of the proposed examinations and other academic achievements can be recognised (Section 78 (5) UG). In any case, interested students are advised to contact the respective competent Programme Director in advance to discuss possible and intended recognition.

Section 7 Types of courses

- (1) Lectures (Vorlesungen/VO) are courses in which knowledge is imparted through presentations by the lecturers. The examination takes place in a single act (written and/or oral).
- (2) Courses with ongoing assessment are courses in which the assessment does not take place in a single examination act, but on the basis of written and/or oral contributions by the participants. If a seminar paper or a written assignment requiring comparable effort is required as part of a course with ongoing assessment, students may submit their work by the following 30 June for winter semester courses and by 31 January of the following year for summer semester courses.
- (3) Courses with ongoing assessment include:
 - a) Portfolio course (Portfoliokurs/PK): The portfolio course involves writing several individual papers (portfolio) during the semester. The workload is 6 ECTS credits.
 - b) Course (Kurs/KS): In courses, teaching staff and students work together on specific issues; attendance is mandatory. The workload is 4 ECTS credits.
 - c) Research training group (Arbeitsgemeinschaft/AG): These groups are designed to facilitate practical testing and public presentation of research results. The workload is 8 ECTS credits.
 - d) Seminar (SE): Seminars are research- and theory-oriented courses that are aimed at advanced students and serve to reflect on and discuss specific academic issues; attendance is mandatory; considerable element of independent study. As a rule, a written paper of 6,000 words must be produced within the framework of a seminar. The workload is 8 ECTS credits.

Section 8 Required subjects

- (1) Required subjects are subjects that are integral to the degree programme and for which examinations must be taken. Students must complete a total of 18 ECTS credits in required subjects.
- (2) The courses assigned to the required subjects are listed in the table below:

	Course Title		Type	ECTS credits
Required Subject "Research Foundations"	1.1	Research Colloquium	KS	4
	1.2	Advanced Language Awareness: Master's Level	KS	4
	1.3	Focus on Gender and Diversity in Literature, Linguistics, or Culture Studies	KS	4
	1.4	Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies	PK	6
			Total:	18

Section 9 Guided electives

- (1) Guided electives are those subjects that students can choose in line with the provisions specified in the curriculum. Students must complete a total of 48 ECTS credits in guided electives.
- (2) By choosing a guided elective, students determine the specialization of their Master's degree programme. The specialization is "Linguistics (Sprachwissenschaft)" if the guided elective "Linguistics" is chosen. If the guided elective "Literature and Culture Studies" is chosen, the specialization is "Literature and Culture Studies (Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaften)". The degree certificate states the respective specialization.
- (3) The guided elective courses are listed in the table below:

	Course Title		Type	ECTS credits
Guided elective "Linguistics"	2.1	Themes in Linguistics	KS	4
	2.2	Advanced Research Methodologies: Linguistics	KS	4
	2.3 - 2.5	Advanced Topics in Linguistics	SE	8 + 8 + 8
	2.6	Early Thesis Forum: Linguistics	AG	8
	2.7	Advanced Thesis Forum: Linguistics	AG	8
			Total:	48
Guided elective "Literature and Culture Studies"	3.1	Themes in Literature and Culture Studies	KS	4
	3.2	Advanced Research Methodologies: Literary and Cultural Theory	KS	4
	3.3 - 3.5	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies	SE	8 + 8 + 8
	3.6	Early Thesis Forum: Literature and Culture Studies	AG	8
	3.7	Advanced Thesis Forum: Literature & Culture Studies	AG	8
			Total:	48

Section 10 Open electives

- (1) Open electives are those subjects that students can freely choose from the range of courses offered by recognised domestic and foreign universities. Courses completed as a prerequisite to study or to gain general or special eligibility for university admission, and courses from the area "English for students from all degree programmes" cannot be taken as open electives.
- (2) Students must complete a total of 12 ECTS credits in open electives.
- (3) In the case of courses completed at other recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institutions, the competent programme director shall rule on

whether the recognition as an open elective subject is appropriate for the chosen degree programme from an academic point of view or with regard to professional activities.

- (4) The curricular committee recommends that students choose their open electives in a modular fashion so that they meaningfully complement the Master's degree programme and adhere to the principle of progressive academic professionalisation. Particular attention is drawn to courses that align with the profile of the University of Klagenfurt as set out in its statutes and to the development and focus areas of the faculty as a whole: gender studies, multilingualism, visual culture, public health, digital humanities, and more.

Section 11 Courses with a limited number of participants

- (1) The number of participants in courses with ongoing assessment (cf. Section 7 (2)) is limited to 20 students.
- (2) If the number of registrations for these courses exceeds the number of places available, admission will take place according to the following procedure:
- a) compulsory course for students according to the curriculum;
 - b) the sum of successfully completed courses in the respective degree programme (total ECTS credits);
 - c) date (priority: earlier date) of fulfilment of the registration requirements (pursuant to Section 12);
 - d) students who have already been deferred once or who have to repeat the course,
 - e) the grade achieved in the examination - or the grade point average of the examinations (weighted according to ECTS credits) - for the course(s) that are the prerequisite for participation;
 - f) as the last criterion for ranking, the decision between equally ranked students is made by drawing lots.
- (3) In accordance with Section 58 (8) UG, care should be taken to ensure that students deferred when registering do not face any prolongation of their period of study. If necessary, parallel courses should also be offered.

Section 12 Courses with special registration requirements

Certain courses are subject to registration requirements, which are presented in the table below. Students must successfully complete the courses listed in the right-hand column in order to attend the corresponding courses listed in the left-hand column:

Course	Requires the successful completion of:
Advanced Topics seminars (2.3-2.5 OR 3.3-3.5)	Advanced Topics seminars (2.3-2.5 OR 3.3-3.5)
Advanced Language Awareness: Master's Level (1.2)	Advanced Language Awareness: Master's Level (1.2)

Advanced Research Methodologies (2.2 OR 3.2)	Advanced Research Methodologies (2.2 OR 3.2)
Advanced Thesis Forum (2.7 OR 3.7)	Advanced Thesis Forum (2.7 OR 3.7)

Section 13 Master thesis

- (1) The Master thesis is the academic thesis that demonstrates the student's ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing scholarly topics. The topic of the Master thesis should be chosen so that it is reasonable for a student to complete the work within six months. The Master thesis must be written in English (Section 14). Students may jointly work on a topic, provided that the individual performance of students can be assessed.
- (2) The topic of the Master thesis must be drawn from one of the required subjects or guided electives.
- (3) The Master thesis comprises 30 ECTS credits and the main text must have a length of at least 30,000 words.
- (4) Pursuant to Part B, Section 18, Paras. 4 and 2a of the statutes, the topic and the supervisor of the Master thesis must be approved by the Rector of Studies. The application must be submitted before work on the thesis begins. The student is permitted to change the supervisor until the time when the Master thesis is submitted. In justified cases (such as a topic with an interdisciplinary focus), the student is permitted supervision by two authorised supervisors.
- (5) The completed Master thesis must be submitted to the Rector of Studies by electronic means. If required by the supervisor, the student must provide them with a bound copy. The supervisor has two months from the date of submission to assess the thesis.

Section 14 Use of languages other than English

Courses as well as oral and written examinations relating to the Master's degree programme are generally conducted in English. The Master thesis and other written assignments must be written in English. This does not apply to the courses offered by the full range of faculties and departments represented at the university and the open electives.

Section 15 Examination regulations

- (1) Courses pursuant to Section 7 (2) a) to d) feature ongoing assessment. Attendance is mandatory. Moreover, students are expected to actively participate in discussions, processes of reflection, as well as to take part in mid-term or final examinations in oral or written form, written assignments and/or oral presentations depending on the course's subject.
- (2) The Master's degree programme *Worlds of English* is concluded by successfully completing the following academic achievements (a-d):
 - a) examinations covering all courses listed in Sections 8 and 9;
 - b) successful completion of the open electives;
 - c) approbation of the Master thesis;

- d) a concluding overall examination, conducted by committee (acc. to para. 3).
- (3) The oral overall examination by committee comprises two subject areas from the specialization (Section 9). One of these areas must be related to the Master thesis, but must contain more in-depth questions; a further area from this specialization may be freely chosen. If a text interpretation is part of the oral examination, the candidate must be given adequate preparation time immediately before the start of the examination.
- (4) The prerequisite for the registration to take the concluding overall examination by committee is the completion of academic achievements listed under para. 2 lit. a, lit. b and lit c.
- (5) Examinations that have already been counted in order to complete the degree programme serving as prerequisites for admission cannot be re-used in this Master's degree programme for the purpose of obtaining the degree.

Section 16 Effective validity

This curriculum will enter into force after announcement in the University of Klagenfurt university bulletin as of 1 October 2024 and will apply to all students who commence their Master's degree programme from the 2024/25 winter semester onwards.

Section 17 Transitional provisions

Students who, on the effective date of this version 24W.1 of the curriculum, are subject to version 18W.1 of the Master's curriculum for English and American Studies valid prior to the adoption of this curriculum, are entitled to complete their studies within five semesters in accordance with the provisions of version 18W.1 of the curriculum. If the degree programme is not completed by 31 March 2027, students shall be subject to the curriculum for the Master's degree programme in Words of English in the applicable version.

Students subject to the previously valid curriculum are entitled to transfer to the currently valid curriculum at any time.

APPENDIX Non-binding recommended course of study

Specialization Linguistics

Subject	Designation	ECTS credits	Recommended semester
<i>Required subject "Research Foundations"</i>	Research Colloquium	6	1
	Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies	4	1
	Advanced Language Awareness: Master's Level	4	1
	Focus on Gender and Diversity in Literature, Linguistics, or Culture Studies	4	1
<i>Guided elective "Linguistics"</i>	Themes in Linguistics	4	1-3
	Advanced Research Methodologies: Linguistics	4	2
	Advanced Topics in Linguistics	8	2-3
	Advanced Topics in Linguistics	8	2-3
	Advanced Topics in Linguistics	8	2-3
	Early Thesis Forum: Linguistics	8	2
	Advanced Thesis Forum: Linguistics	8	3
Open electives		12	1-4
Master thesis		30	4
Overall examination		12	4
	Total:	120	

Specialization Literature and Culture Studies

Subject	Designation	ECTS credits	Recommended semester
<i>Required subject "Research Foundations"</i>	Research Colloquium	6	1
	Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies	4	1
	Advanced Language Awareness: Master's Level	4	1
	Focus on Gender and Diversity in Literature, Linguistics, or Culture Studies	4	1
<i>Guided elective "Literature and Culture Studies"</i>	Themes in Literature and Culture Studies	4	1-3
	Advanced Research Methodologies: Literary and Cultural Theory	4	2
	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies	8	2-3
	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies	8	2-3

	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies	8	2-3
	Early Thesis Forum: Literature and Culture Studies	8	2
	Advanced Thesis Forum: Literature and Culture Studies	8	3
Open electives		12	1-4
Master thesis		30	4
Overall examination		12	4
	Total:	120	