Linguistics

Master’s Programme Information Evening
Linguistics as the scientific study of language

- Why are languages different in time and space?
- How do babies learn their mother tongue? And why is learning foreign languages so hard?
- What happens in the brain of patients with aphasia? Typically and atypically developing children (SLI)? Children with dyslexia?
- Explore the relationship between linguistics and language studies, psychology, computer science (corpora, data mining, Natural Language Processing), philosophy and logic, clinical research & work (patients), education (schools), …
Why Linguistics in Utrecht?

• The RM Linguistics at Utrecht University has a very good reputation in the Netherlands and abroad.

• Good career prospects: about 50% of students find a PhD position.

• Truly international classroom: 30-40% of our students come from outside the Netherlands.

• A lot of research buzz! Active research environment UiL OTS: lots of talks, readings groups, workshops, much interaction with young and senior researchers (PhDs, postdocs, staff).

• Well structured programme, open to be tailor-made to suit your own research, academic, or industry interests.
Aim and target group

- **Target group**: students with a BA in Linguistics, a language (modern or classical), Artificial Intelligence, Communication and Information Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, University College, etc.

- **Motivation**: you have an interest in language, and the relation between language and cognition.

- **Research oriented**: you are curious, your are looking for a challenging programme that is grounded in cutting edge research, you want to explore an international study environment with top notch researchers to supervise you.

- **Aim**: prepare you for a career in research (PhD/ industry/government/).
What is the Research Master Linguistics?

- Research degree programme (RM)
- Taught in English
- Full-time
- 2-year programme (120 ECT)
- Programme start month: September
- Selective: background, grades, motivation
- Yearly enrolment: ±25 students
- Programme coordinator: Marijana Marelj/Henriëtte de Swart & Tutor: Marijana Marelj
Programme structure Year 1

- **Semester 1:**
  - 5 Foundations courses (5 ECT each, obligatory): grammar, sound, meaning, psycholinguistics, language acquisition
  - Digital Tools in Linguistics (5 ECT): programming, corpus research.
- **Semester 2:**
  - 4 Elective courses (5 ECT each)
  - RM1 methodology courses LOT Winter School (5 ECT)
  - Research Seminar (5 ECT)
- **LOT**: Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschappen offers national curriculum in linguistics for RM and PhD students.
Programme Structure Year 2

• LOT Summer School (4 courses general programme)
• Electives/special topics/extended internship
• Internship: hands-on involvement in an ongoing research project (individual researchers or research group) at UiL OTS or elsewhere.
• Thesis: choose your own topic.
# Overall programme

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Electives

Experimental Design and Data Analysis
Language Contact, Variation, and Change: Comparing Language Systems
Cognitive and Computational Aspects of Word Meaning
Language and Speech Pathology
Discourse, Cognition, and Communication
Prosodic learning: Linking Sound to Meaning
L2 Acquisition and Education
Psycholinguistics: Information and Emotion
Reasoning about Meaning in Linguistic Communication
Syntax and Cognition: Grammar-Internal & External Interfaces
Masterlanguage

- National MA-curriculum for language students.
- Faculty from UU, UL, RU, UvA, VU and RUG work in teams that jointly offer Masterlanguage courses.
- Courses include linguistics and literature courses in German, English, Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish and classical languages (Latin/Greek).
- Courses offered in German, French, Spanish, etc.
- Courses offered at different universities across the Netherlands.
- [http://masterlanguage.nl/](http://masterlanguage.nl/)
What should you expect from us?

- Challenging, intensive, cohesive structured, high-quality program
- Closely linked teaching & research
- International learning environment (staff/students)
- Excellent and highly motivated teaching staff (experts in the field)
- Advanced experimental facilities and support staff ([http://uilots-labs.wp.hum.uu.nl/](http://uilots-labs.wp.hum.uu.nl/))
- Many ongoing research projects (cutting edge research)
- Interdisciplinarity: embedding in Neuroscience & Cognition (UU focus area) and Dynamics of Youth (UU strategic theme).
What do we expect from you?

• Independence and autonomy (proactivity & responsibility)
• Commitment (attendance, active participation)
• Open and enthusiastic to engage with students from different backgrounds & nationalities who share your fascination for language
• Wide-ranging interests in language and linguistics (theoretical, empirical, experimental etc.)
• Adequate command of Academic English
• Adequate intellectual skills.
Career prospects

- **Career options**: enter a PhD programme, carry out research at a research institute, find a job in industry/consulting, government (policy making) teaching (high school/higher education).

- **Career prospects**: 50% of our students end up in a PhD position (in Utrecht/the Netherlands/the world)

- After one year, almost everyone has a job.
At Utrecht University, a Master’s programme is not only about academic specialisation. In collaboration with Career Services, we organise workshops and events throughout your Master’s programme to prepare yourself for your professional future.

Career Services offers events, tests, coaching and training in and outside your Master's programme, related to professional self-analysis, career orientation and job application skills.

- Do you have questions about how to start your career?
- Would you like to discuss your resume?
- Would you like to practice a job interview?
Then you can plan an appointment with our Career Officer.

Additionally we organise:
- Monthly evenings on Your Perspective: career opportunities for Humanities Graduates
- Annual Humanities CareerNight (www.carrierenachtgw.nl)
Admission requirements

(expected) BA in:

• Linguistics;
• Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, etc. (minor linguistics);
• Language and culture studies (TCS);
• Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS);
• Communication and information sciences (CIW);
• Artificial Intelligence (AI);
• University College/Roosevelt Academy;
• Other.. Talk to me!
Admission requirements

Q: How much background in linguistics should I have?
A: at least 45 ects (75% of an academic year), preferably including BA thesis. At least 22.5 ects at level 3 (advanced BA level). One class: quantitative research methods (e.g. intro to statistics). I can guide you towards online resources if you don’t have this.

Q: What about English?
A: For students with a BA from any Dutch University: you are fine. For international students: take a TOEFL test or other English proficiency test. See website for required scores.

Q: Can I enter the RM Linguistics with a diploma from a HBO programme?
A: No, there is no pre-master programme for the RM Linguistics.
What if I need a bit of extra preparation?

• You: serious, promising, proactive candidate

Email me! m.marelj@uu.nl
Application and enrolment

• **Procedure:**
  1. you submit an enrolment request (application);
  2. you receive a letter of (conditional) acceptance;
  3. you finalise your enrolment.


• Application deadlines for Dutch **students: June 1**.

• **For international students deadlines are earlier.** For funding opportunities (Utrecht Excellence grants), deadlines are even earlier. Check the website!
More information?

- Check out [http://www.lotschool.nl/](http://www.lotschool.nl/) (information about the national graduate school in linguistics).