

Language Arts

Curriculum

Master Programme

Duration: 4 Semesters

Programme Number: 066 xxx

This is the English translation of the original German version. Only the latter is legally binding.

Version: Wintersemester 2020/21

Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna on
30 January 2020

1. Preamble

The Language Arts Master programme takes into account that the term “author“ has greatly changed and expanded in recent years, and it specifically prepares students for the multifaceted vocational profile of the contemporary author.

The Language Arts Master programme aims to broaden, expand, or newly develop the completed Bachelor programme by creating a specific literary project that consciously connects to medial and societal social processes.

Digitalisation and globalisation brought about other forms of literature, as well as new fields of work for authors requiring a Master’s programme that is geared to transdisciplinary and collective work processes.

The Language Arts Master programme connects literary production as an artistic research to that of other arts and sciences while integrating the analysis of social, economic, and political circumstances. In this way, a creative area of tension becomes available to budding authors in which their literary practise – the work with and on language – will be situated and in which they can accommodate societal developments, stimulate issues and act beyond the exclusively artistic sphere of work.

The idea is to expand the work with and on language by incorporating media in inter- and transdisciplinary courses, seminars on theories, and cooperation agreements with external institutions to provide triggers beyond the boundaries of literature and art for shaping and changing society.

These collaborations with institutions from the sphere of literature and art, as well as institutions that do not primarily work in the arts are more than just a contact. They enable students to view and to access the transforming work areas in question, so that they may pick up skills from them and transfer these into the own artistic practise.

Consequently, the Master programme does not solely focus on a conventional text project (as Master thesis). Instead, it aims to open up new spaces of opportunity for the students – beyond a potential specialization in a more narrowly defined literary work field. Moving toward a most versatile understanding of “author work“ that matches the vocational challenges of the current practise and the anticipated digital changes.

2. Qualification Profile

After completing the programme, graduates will independently apply the analysis criteria obtained to their own artistic works, as well as to the works of others. This enables them to critically reflect upon and further develop socio-political and socio-esthetical coherences in respect of artistic production.

Graduates of the Language Arts Master programme are able to compose literary works in the fields of lyrics, prose, essay, drama, as well as within transdisciplinary formats, thus locating themselves firmly in the sector of art and culture. Due to the interconnection of all kinds of work areas within the Master programme of Language Arts, graduates will know how to produce transdisciplinary synergies within the scope of diverging projects.

The programme provides experience in incorporating media and digital forms, as well as in working with external partners and institutions from the arts, culture and science, consequently enabling graduates to act with confidence in a broad creative-vocational environment.

3. Prerequisites for Admission

Pursuant to § 63 para. 3 Universities Act, prerequisite for the admission to the Master programme „Language Arts“ is prior completion of a subject-specific Bachelor programme at a university or college, or equivalent form of studies at a recognized domestic or foreign post-secondary education institution.

Another prerequisite is artistic aptitude to be evidenced within the scope of an admission examination pursuant to § 76 Universities Act. Satisfactory evidence of artistic aptitude will at the same time be taken as evidence that the prior course of studies was subject-specific.

To register for the two-part admission examination, students need to submit a written presentation of a long-term project of literary-artistic nature, plus an explanation of its content and formal orientation, as well as a CV, and motivational letter outlining personal expectations toward the intended study programme. From these submissions,

the admission examination board will select the applicants to be invited for a personal interview. The positive assessment of both parts is regarded as evidence of artistic aptitude.

Students, who completed the Bachelor programme of Language Arts at the Angewandte in the year before the admissions to the Master programme, need to submit a written declaration of their intent to take up the Master studies either prior to the start of the admission exams (winter semester graduation) or prior to the start of the admission period (summer semester graduation) in order to achieve evidence of their artistic aptitude without further requirements.

4. Extent, Duration, and Structure of the Programme

The Master programme „Language Arts“ is an artistic study pursuant to § 54 para. 1 [3] Universities Act. It extends to 180 ECTS credits. That represents a minimum study period of 4 semesters.

The programme is taught in German; individual courses from „Literary-media Field“, „Cooperation Work“ and „Electives“ may be offered in English.

It is recommended to undertake part of the programme as studies abroad that warrant recognition, plus to participate in international study mobility programmes.

As much as content and organizational matters allow for it, the requirements of students holding down a job or students with special needs will be taken into consideration.

4.1. Individual Production

At the beginning of the semester, the projects of the Master programme students are presented as part of the Individual Production. At the end of the semester, a concluding discussion takes place within the Individual Production during which the current state of the works are presented and discussed. Project mentoring is an ongoing process in individual tutoring sessions with the professors.

Prerequisite for admission to the course „Individual Production: Preparing the Master Thesis“ is the positive assessment of the course „Individual Production: Master Thesis Foundation“.

4.2. Text Workshop

Supplementing the Individual Production, the Text Workshop looks into text analysis, text commenting, and text critique. It aims at providing participants with fresh perspectives on their own craft by intense exchange regarding the own and other projects. The Text Workshop takes place on regular dates.

4.3. Theory Seminar

Seminars on reading material and contemplation in respect of literary works selected by the teaching staff for closer perusal, description, analysis, interpretation of primary literature on the one hand, plus texts of aesthetic, literary, political, gender or general philosophical theories on the other hand, which enable students to gain access to discourses of the 21st Century that reflect on cultural products – in the context of curatorial issues, literary or cultural studies, and media criticism. They are to receive a (formal and content-related) set of instruments to analyse the own or someone else's texts and media work in the context of theory development and application in the sense of literary research.

In addition, the content-related engagement with the subjects of theory is meant to enable participants to re-contextualize the text and media referencing of their own writing.

Content-related suggestions, e.g.: Écriture féminine/queer writing, concepts of textuality, narrative theory, dramatic composition, poetics, un-doing gender, authorship theories (in the context of literary history), introductory texts of media theory, visual and auditory poetry, film poetry, language philosophy, text aesthetics, reader-response criticism, literary criticism and its theory, canonizing and deglorifying.

4.4. Guest Lectures

Guest lecturers from various literature-related fields of work will be invited (e.g. houses of literature, broadcasting companies, dramaturges, translators, literary agents) to speak about concrete work experiences. The objective is to introduce students to forms of text presentation beyond the „classic“ book – such as the audio drama, performance, scenic forms, (sound) installations, film media, exhibitions. Students' attendance is required for a successful course completion.

4.5. Cooperation Agreements

In cooperation work set up with external institutions from the field of literature and art, as well as with institutions that are not primarily involved in artistic endeavours, students learn to independently develop a project from the idea finding to the completed presentation.

Collaborating with external partners gives students access to other practical and cultural approaches to language, textuality, narration, image and digital forms. It broadens their understanding of authorship and prepares them for autonomous work in diverse forms and formats.

4.6. Internship

Students are to take up an internship for a period of at least two months at an institution in the sector of art and culture. It is up to the students which institution (a publisher, a theatre, a multimedia forum, etc.) they select. In any case, the internship is to deepen insights gained from guest lectures by experiencing the actual enterprise and to help opening up potentially new fields of work.

It is possible to carry out the internship within the frame of an Erasmus stay. It may be replaced by elective courses.

4.7. Seminar Assistance

During the Master programme, it is possible to assist in a seminar for Bachelor students. This requires the agreement of the relevant teaching staff member and could, for instance, take the form of a workshop with a view to intensify the exchange between Bachelor and Master studies on the one hand, and providing students with practical experience in an actual writing class on the other hand. Tutoring and assessment will be dealt with by the teaching staff member in charge of the course in question.

4.8. Elective Courses

Elective courses may be selected from the range of courses that the Angewandte or other universities offer. During the first semester and within the frame of „Individual Production: Master Thesis Foundation“, students should plan the electives that will be useful for their Master thesis. In subsequent semesters, they will report during the Text Workshop which competences they acquired in these electives.

4.9. Master Thesis

Prerequisite for admission to the Master thesis is the positive assessment of the courses from „Individual Production: Master Thesis Foundation“ and „Individual Production: Preparing the Master Thesis“.

The Master thesis consists of a primarily literary-artistic project of the students, which is either text oriented or engages in an artistic manner with the production and contemplation of language/text/image. This means that either classic text projects (novel, theatre play, volume of poems, etc.) or, in view of the expansion toward media in the programme, inter- and transdisciplinary works may be realized.

5. Course of Studies

		Type	ECTS
Individual Production		KE	30
	Individual Production:		10
	Master Thesis Foundation (1st semester)		
	Individual Production:		20
	Preparing the Master Thesis (2nd/3rd semester)		
Text Workshop	across 4 semesters (à 4 ECTS)	SEK	16
Theory	seminars (à 4 ECTS)	SE	8
Guest Lectures	(à 1 ECTS)		4
Cooperation Project	across 2 Semester (à 5 ECTS)	PA	10
Master Thesis			26
Elective Courses, incl. option Internship (10 ECTS), incl. option Seminar Assistance (5 ECTS)			26
TOTAL			120

6. Exam Regulations

6.1. Course Examinations

Course examinations will be carried out by the teaching staff in charge of the courses. Examination contents, methods and assessment criteria are to be announced in a suitable manner prior to the start of each semester.

Successful completion of the „Guest Lectures“ requires students' attendance; assessment will be worded as „mit Erfolg teilgenommen“ (successfully completed /pass) or „ohne Erfolg teilgenommen“ (unsuccessfully completed /fail). The assessment of the „Text Workshop“ will also be „mit Erfolg teilgenommen“ (successfully completed /pass) or „ohne Erfolg teilgenommen“ (unsuccessfully completed /fail).

6.2. Master's Examination

The Master's examination consists of

- the positive assessment of all compulsory courses
- the Master thesis

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- the public presentation and discussion of the Master thesis

The assessment of the Master thesis, the public presentation, and the discussion is dealt with by an examination board that will include the supervising tutor as a member in any case.

6.3. Graduation

The successful completion of the Master's examination concludes the programme, and graduates will be awarded the academic degree of „Master of Arts“ (MA).

7. Effective Date

The curriculum for the Master programme of Language Arts comes into effect on 1 October 2020.