

LING2M - Introduction

Introduction

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This Master's degree provides advanced training in general and applied linguistics, with two possible specializations: Natural Language Processing (French) and "Linguistics and its applications to a multilingual society" (English, French and/or multilingual). The degree may lead to a position in research or in the broad sector of written and spoken communication (terminology, dictionaries, text readability, text data analysis, etc.), including the 'language industries' or digital humanities sectors.

As this Master's programme attracts a number of international students, you will be immersed in a natural multilingual environment.

Your profile

You

- have discovered, during your first training in language and literature or taking the linguistics minor, a marked interest in linguistic issues;
- are convinced that language plays a major role in any society;
- wish to understand how language functions in context and are curious about the mechanisms of language processing;
- wish to include a professional experience (internship) in your training;
- would like to deepen your linguistic knowledge in French, in English, and possibly in other foreign languages (Dutch, German or Spanish).

Your programme

This Master's degree offers you

- training which combines linguistic theory and applied linguistics;
- wide interdisciplinary range (IT, sociology, psycholinguistics, etc.);
- a solid and varied methodological background (corpus analysis, experimental linguistics, statistics, contrastive and variationist analysis, sociolinguistic surveys, etc.);
- a programme personalised through the choice of a focus, an option and optional courses;
- the possibility of a study visit abroad or work experience in the field (see

LING2M Programme

Detailed programme by subject

CORE COURSES [50.0]

- Mandatory
- ⊗ Optional
- △ Not offered in 2024-2025
- ⊖ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
- ⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
- △ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
- Activity with requisites
- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
- 🚫 Not open to incoming exchange students
- (FR) Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

Year

				Year	
				1	2
⌘ LGERM2823	English Linguistics: Lexicology	Gaëtanelle Gilquin (compensates Sylvie De Cock)	EN [q1] [22.5h] [5 Credits] 🌐	x	x

⌘ Additional language course (3 to 5 credits maximum)

Students whose level of English does not enable them to read academic articles may add to their programme one or two of the following English courses. Students who have a particular interest in sign language may add one course (5 credits) to their programme, provided justification is given. The additional course will form part of the overall Master's programme which will total more than 120 credits.

⌘ LANGL1700	Advanced English	Timothy Byrne (coord.) Philippe Denis (coord.)	EN [q1 or q2] [30h] [3 Credits] 🌐	x	
⌘ LANGL2600	Entry to Professional life in English	Lutgarde Schrijvers (coord.)	EN [q1] [30h] [3 Credits] 🌐	x	
⌘ LSIGN1101	French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB) - Breakthrough level (A1) -Complete beginners				

LIST OF FOCUSES

Students choose one of the following focuses:

- > Professional Focus : Natural Language Processing [en-prog-2024-ling2m-lling202s]
- > Professional Focus : Linguistics and its Applications for a Multilingual Society [en-prog-2024-ling2m-lling203s]

PROFESSIONAL FOCUS : NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING [30.0]

This professional focus trains students in language industry tools (spell-checking, speech recognition, machine translation, document management, etc.). With its strong business focus, this specialization welcomes guest researchers (from academia and business).

For further information: <https://uclouvain.be/fr/instituts-recherche/ilc/cental>

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Year

1 2

o Content:

o Computer studies (10 credits)

○ LINFO1101	Introduction to programming	Kim Mens Siegfried Nijssen Charles Pecheur	FR [q1] [30h+30h] [5 Credits] 🌐	X	
○ LINFO1103	Introduction to algorithms	Pierre Dupont	FR [q2] [30h+30h] [5 Credits] 🌐	X	

o Automatic Language Processing (20 credits)

○ LFIAL2620	Natural language processing	Cédric Fairon	FR [q1] [22.5h] [5 Credits] 🌐 > English-friendly	X	
○ LFIAL2630	Automatic language processing methods	Cédric Fairon	FR [q2] [22.5h] [5 Credits] 🌐 > English-friendly	X	X
○ LCLIG2220	Overview of applications in NLP	Cédric Fairon	FR [q1+q2] [15h] [5 Credits] 🌐 > English-friendly		X
○ LCLIG2260	Introduction to speech processing	Thierry Dutoit	FR [q1] [15h] [5 Credits] 🌐		

OPTIONS [40.0]

Regardless of the chosen focus, **the programme contains**

- **40 credits of option and optional courses** distributed as follows: one option of minimum 15 credits completed with maximum 25 credits of optional courses (which can be chosen from the options below except INEO)
OR
- **two options** of minimum 15 credits each.

A maximum of 30 credits can be chosen within one option.

A **B2 level** in English, French, German, Spanish or Dutch is required to follow the courses given in these languages.

> [Option in Contrastive Linguistics](#) [*en-prog-2024-ling2m-lling902o*]

> [Option in Computational Linguistics and Computer Science](#) [*Linguistics and Computer Scia91*]

OPTION IN ENGLISH LINGUISTICS: SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

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- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
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Year

1 2

o Content:

⊗ LGERM2871	Research seminar in English linguistics: Learner Corpus Research	Magali Paquot	EN [q2] [15h] [5 Credits] ⊕ 🌐	x	x
⊗ LGERM2725	English Linguistics: Second Language Acquisition	Fanny Meunier Magali Paquot	EN [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] ⊖ 🌐		

OPTION IN SPANISH LINGUISTICS

- Mandatory
- ⊗ Optional
- △ Not offered in 2024-2025
- ⊙ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
- ⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
- △ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
- Activity with requisites
- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
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o Content:

○ LROM2843	Synchrony and Diachrony of Spanish in Contact with other Languages	Barbara De Cock	ES [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] ⊙ 🌐	X	X
○ LROM2517	Seminar: Spanish Linguistics	Barbara De Cock	ES [q2] [15h] [5 Credits] ⊕ 🌐	X	X
○ LLSTI2140	Language, Culture, Translation and Interpreting - Spanish	Mauricio Narvaez Soto	ES [q2] [30h+30h] [5 Credits] 🌐	X	X

OPTION IN TRANSLATION STUDIES

- Mandatory
- ⊗ Optional
- △ Not offered in 2024-2025
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- Activity with requisites
- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
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Year

Not open to incoming exchange students

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP - INEO [30.0]

INEO is an option offered in 30 Master programmes, in 9 faculties of UCLouvain. It involves the completion of an interfaculty dissertation (in teams) on a business creation project. Access to this option (as well as to each of the courses) is limited to students selected by application. All information on <https://uclouvain.be/en/study/ineo>.

- Mandatory
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- ⊙ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
- ⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
- △ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
- Activity with requisites
- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
- 🚫 Not open to incoming exchange students
- [FR] Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

Year

1 2

o Content:

OPTION IN DIGITAL CULTURE AND ETHICS [15.0]

The digital has transformed our lives and culture to the extent to which everything takes place nowadays in “digital space,” as our own space, time, and existence are all deeply digitalized. In the “culture of connectivity,” the digital is ubiquitous, we are, one way or another, always online, while technology is no longer just ‘at hand’, but already intimately infiltrating and fusing with our thoughts, our sensations, and even our bodies.

The Digital Culture and Ethics Option offers courses focusing on such profound changes brought about by the digital in all walks of life and academic disciplines alike. It invites the students to reflect critically and creatively on the resulting large-scale evolutions and equips them with the right skills and tools for approaching their subject matters from cutting-edge and presently much needed, genuinely effective and encompassing perspectives.

The topics and practical applications taught in this option also open up the scope of our specialized fields to wider cross-disciplinary

OPTIONAL COURSES

Students complete their program with courses from the above options.

Course prerequisites

The **table** below lists the activities (course units, or CUs) for which there are one or more prerequisites within the programme, i.e. the programme CU for which the learning outcomes must be certified and the corresponding credits awarded by the jury before registering for that CU.

These activities are also identified in the **detailed programme**

Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General (St-Louis Bruxelles)		Direct access
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General (Louvain-la-Neuve) Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Letters (St-Louis Bruxelles)		
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures (Louvain-la-Neuve)		Direct access
Bachelor in Translation and Interpreting (St-Louis Bruxelles) Bachelor in Translation and Interpreting [Filière en communication interculturelle] (St-Louis Bruxelles)		Access with additional training
All Bachelor	With the Minor in Linguistics	Direct access
Other Bachelor		Access based on application
Others Bachelors of the French speaking Community of Belgium		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures: General Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures		Direct access
Bachelor in translation and interpreting		Access with additional training
Other Bachelor		Access based on application
Bachelors of the Dutch speaking Community of Belgium		
Bachelor in de taal- en letterkunde		Direct access
Bachelor in de toegepaste taalkunde		Access with additional training
Foreign Bachelors		
Foreign Bachelor in Arts and Letters	Student must have followed at least 30 credits of courses in linguistics and/or language sciences.	Access based on application

Non university Bachelors

> Find out more about [links](#) to the university

Only applicable to graduates of higher education institutions of the French Community of Belgium

Diploma

Diploma

BA - assistant(e) en psychologie - crédits supplémentaires entre 45 et 60

BA en logopédie - crédits supplémentaires entre 45 et 60

Holders of a 2nd cycle University degree

Diploma	Special Requirements	Access	Remarks
"Licenciés"			
Masters			
Master [120] in Linguistics, second focus		Direct access	At the end of Master 120, each focus of the Master [120] in Linguistics can be obtained in a new programme of 30 credits. For the focus in Natural Language Processing, supplementary classes can be added to the student's program according to his educational background.
Master [60] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German, Dutch and English Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German, Dutch and English Master [60] in Modern Languages and Literatures : General Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : General Master [60] in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General Master [120] in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General Master [60] in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures Master [120] in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures		Direct access	Programme established on the basis of the student's educational background (consult Admission and Enrolment Procedures for general registration) Taking into account the student's educational background will allow a maximum of 60 credits to be exempted.
Master [120] in Computer Science and Engineering Master [120] in Computer Science		Access with additional training	Maximum 30 credits of supplementary classes integrated into the Master's programme Programme established on the basis of the student's educational background (consult Admission and Enrolment Procedures for general registration)
Other Belgian Master		Access based on application	Programme established on the basis of the student's educational background (consult Admission and Enrolment Procedures for general registration)
Foreign Masters		Access based on application	All candidates must ensure that they meet the specific access requirements. In case of admission, maximum 60 credits of supplementary classes integrated into the Master's programme (consult Acces on the file).

Holders of a non-University 2nd cycle degree

Only applicable to graduates of higher education institutions of the French Community of Belgium

Access based on validation of professional experience

> It is possible, under certain conditions, to use one's personal and professional experience to enter a university course without having the required qualifications. However, validation of prior experience does not automatically apply to all courses. Find out more about [Validation of priori experience](#).

Candidates who do not fulfil the abovementioned admission requirements, but who have duly attested significant experience relevant to the field of study in question, may apply for admission to the programme on the basis of an individualised admission procedure.

For more information on the procedure for admission by validation of learning from experience (VAE) in the Faculty of Philosophy, Arts and Letters: <https://uclouvain.be/fr/facultes/fial/valorisation-des-acquis-de-l-experience-vae.html>.

Access based on application

Access based on application : access may be granted either directly or on the condition of completing additional courses of a maximum of 60 ECTS credits, or refused.

Admissibility criteria

A candidate's application will be deemed admissible if it meets all of the following criteria:

- Candidate's diploma issued by an **institution recognized by WHED** (see <https://www.whed.net/home.php>)
- Previous course of study including **at least 3 years of higher education** (equivalent to 180 European credits), leading to an undergraduate degree;
- For holders of a **degree from outside Belgium**:

1. an overall average of at least 60% (12/20) for the entire course of study completed at the home institution and giving access to this program;
2. official attestation of proficiency in language(s) at the required level (see specific entry requirements), to be attached to the application file. The official attestation must be issued by an organization recognized as a full member by ALTE (see <https://alte.org/Our-Full-Members>).

If a document is missing from the online application, it must be justified (see [UCLouvain Enrolment Department's frequently asked questions](#), in particular "[What do I do if my online application asks for a document I don't yet have?](#)")

Applications deemed admissible are forwarded to the Faculty by Enrolment Services. Applications that do not meet these criteria are automatically rejected.

Eligibility criteria

Applications submitted to the Faculty by UCLouvain's Enrolment Department are examined by the program's jury in accordance with the specific conditions of access detailed above.

The jury decides on the admissibility of candidates on the basis of the information contained in their application file, the quality of the training they have undergone and the results they have obtained.

When examining the application, the jury will pay particular attention to the following points:

- **Consistency** between the candidate's previous academic career and the prerequisites for the targeted program. The match between the candidate's academic background and the UCLouvain bachelor's degree giving direct access to the master's program need not be perfect, but the skills acquired (see specific access conditions) must be close; Example: for an application for admission to a master's program in modern languages and literature, the candidate's previous training includes courses in languages and literature in both modern languages.
- **Grades** obtained in the program's major disciplines (see specific entry requirements);
- **Arguments**

Teaching method

The core study of the programme in the LAMUSO focus are bilingual. Students are offered an alternative in French or English for each course. The options and optional courses are multilingual (courses are offered in French, English, Dutch, German and Spanish).

In general, the offer of courses and seminars is both varied and specific.

Specialised focuses favour teaching with a more immediate professional anchorage through courses, seminars and internships. A close relationship between the dissertation, the internship and the seminars is favoured.

Evaluation

The evaluation methods comply with the [regulations concerning studies and exams](#). More detailed explanation of the modalities specific to each learning unit are available on their description sheets under the heading "Learning outcomes evaluation method".

The way the course is evaluated varies depending on what subject is being taught.

Depending on the size of the group, and the subject in question, the possibilities are as follows :

- "traditional" evaluation in the form of a final oral or written exam;
- "traditional" evaluation combined with exercises during the year;
- group work in the place of an exam;
- individual work in the place of an exam;
- internship, supervised and evaluated by a "maître de stage" and an academic.

To obtain a student's average, the grades awarded for each course unit are weighted by their respective credits.

Mobility and/or Internationalisation outlook

[Master \[120\] in Linguistics](#) students come from very different backgrounds. More than half of our student body is international. This rich cultural and linguistic diversity is a real asset for both the linguistics lecturers and the students themselves.

Alongside the courses taught in French, various courses are available in English, Dutch, German or Spanish. Many of the courses taught in French are [English-friendly](#), some of the courses in English are [French-friendly](#).

International internships

As part of their Master's degree in Linguistics, students will be required to do an internship in a research laboratory or a company. Grants are available for students wishing to complete their internship in Flanders or abroad.

Study visits

Students in Linguistics (professional focuses in "Natural Language Processing" or "Linguistics and its Applications for a Multilingual Society") are encouraged to undertake:

- Study vi225cMany Philosophy, Arttics aLewrindeharses

