



How to Study Linguistics



A Guide to Organising Classes and Assignments

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BPO 2021

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April 2016, updated October 2020, September 2021 (**BPO 2021**)

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1 Introduction

This document provides an overview of important organisational aspects for the linguistic track of your studies, arranged by modules. This document applies to students studying according to the Besondere Prüfungsordnung (BPO) 2021. Part 1 of this manual gives an overview of the courses offered in the different modules. Part 2 provides a summary of important registration deadlines (for obtaining credits for your courses) and submission dates for coursework in English Linguistics. Part 3 lists the specific requirements for coursework (e.g., length, complexity) depending on the course level (A2, A5, E2/E5, P, ABA, M2) and type of coursework (term paper, data analysis (*Projekt mit Praxisanteil*), portfolio, oral exam, BA or MA thesis). For any term paper or thesis, you need to first submit a research proposal before you start writing the term paper (→ *How to Write a Research Proposal*). You also need to consult other relevant manuals (→ *How to Write a Term Paper, How to Avoid Plagiarism*).

2 Organising your schedules (BA English Studies)

2.1 Basismodul (B2)

In the *Basismodul*, you have to attend **all 4 courses** listed below. To complete the module you need to pass the respective exams. The exam is divided into two parts: Part 1 (covering the courses in the winter term) will take place at the end of the winter term, and part 2 (covering the courses in the summer term) will take place at the end of the summer term. You have to pass each part of the exam to complete the module.

Winter term	Summer term
<i>Introduction to Linguistics (I)</i>	<i>Introduction to Linguistics (II)</i>
<i>Descriptive Grammar of English</i>	<i>Spoken English</i>

2.2 Aufbaumodul (A2)

In the *Aufbaumodul*, you are required to attend **two courses** – one from each of the following areas:

- *Systems of Language and Communication*
- *Developmental and Linguistic Variation*

Winter term		Summer term	
<i>Morphology</i>	Systems	<i>Contrastive Grammar (German – English)</i>	Systems or Variation
<i>Syntax</i>	Systems	<i>Second Language Acquisition</i>	Variation
<i>Semantics and Pragmatics</i>	Systems	<i>First Language Acquisition</i>	Variation
<i>Phonology</i>	Systems		

Note: To attend courses in module A2 students must have completed module B2.

Ideally, you attend a course from the area *Systems of Language and Communication* in the winter term and a course from the area *Developmental and Linguistic Variation* in the summer term. To complete the module you have to complete a *Studienleistung* (SL) and a *Prüfungsleistung* (PL) as specified below.

a) SL: Presentation (10-15 minutes) (*Präsentation*) or homework exercises (2-3 pages / 600-900 words) (*Hausaufgabe*)

b) PL: Data analysis (4-6 pages / 1,200-1,800 words) (*Projekt mit Praxisanteil*) or written exam (60-90 minutes) (*Klausur*)

For each seminar, the syllabus will specify which of the two *Studienleistungen* or *Prüfungsleistungen* apply.

2.3 Erweiterungsmodul (E2)

If you study the profile *Gymnasiallehramt* or *Fachwissenschaften* with English as your major, you will take the *Erweiterungsmodul* in year 3. You can choose two seminars from the winter term and/or summer term. Ideally, you attend one E2 course in the winter term and the second E2 course in the summer term. In the list below you can find examples of potential course topics in the E2 module.

- Psycholinguistics (various topics)
- Bilingualism (various topics)
- Second Language Acquisition (advanced topics)
- Varieties of English
- The Grammar of Englishes
- Language Across the Lifespan
- Contrasting Theories in First Language Acquisition
- Language Disorders
- Discourse Analysis
- Advanced English Syntax
- Heritage Language Acquisition

Note: *To attend courses in module E2, students must have completed module A2.*

To complete the module you complete one of the following tasks in one of the two courses:

- Presentation (30 minutes) plus written tasks (4-6 pages) (*Referat mit schriftlicher Ausarbeitung*)
- Term paper (10-12 pages/3,000-3,600 words) (*Hausarbeit*); or term paper (10 pages /3,000 words) with presentation (15 minutes) (*Hausarbeit mit Präsentation*)

For each seminar, the syllabus will specify which of the two *Studienleistungen* or *Prüfungsleistungen* apply.

2.4 Bachelor-Abschlussmodul (ABA)

If you take the *ABA-Modul* with a linguistics profile, you attend **one seminar listed for the ABA module** (ideally in the winter term) as well as **the colloquium** (ideally in the summer

term). To complete the module, you write a BA thesis and present your BA project in the colloquium. For your BA thesis, you ideally choose a topic linked to one of the classes in the winter term.

Students writing their BA thesis in linguistics are strongly advised to attend the class *Linguistic Research Methods*, which is regularly offered in the summer term. This class deals with critical research skills for data collection and (statistical) data analysis, which you will need in your BA thesis. You can either take this class to earn credits in module P (see below) or attend it as your extracurricular course in the E4 module.

2.5 P-Modul

This module is compulsory for students with the profile *Gymnasiallehramt* or *Fachwissenschaft*. To complete this module you attend one project course and write a portfolio. Note that the courses offered in this module either have a focus on *Literary and Cultural Studies* or on *Linguistics*. Students writing their BA thesis in linguistics are strongly advised to attend the course *Linguistic Research Methods* as it deals with critical research skills for data collection and (statistical) data analysis, which you will need in your BA thesis. The course is offered each summer term.

3 Organising your schedules (MA GHR / GYM)

3.1 Aufbaumodul GYM (A2)

See 2.1 “Aufbaumodul (A2)” above

3.2 Aufbaumodul GHR (A5)

Please note that this module is studied either with the profile Linguistics or with the profile Literary and Cultural Studies. If you have completed module A1 (Literary and Cultural Studies) in the BA, you choose the Linguistics profile for A5. If you have completed the A2 module (Linguistics) in the BA, you choose the profile Literary and Cultural Studies in A5.

If you take **A5 with the profile Linguistics**, you are required to attend **two courses** – one from each of the following areas:

- *Systems of Language and Communication*
- *Developmental and Linguistic Variation*

Winter term		Summer term	
<i>Morphology</i>	Systems	<i>Contrastive Grammar (German – English)</i>	Systems or Variation
<i>Syntax</i>	Systems	<i>Second Language Acquisition</i>	Variation
<i>Semantics and Pragmatics</i>	Systems	<i>First Language Acquisition</i>	Variation
<i>Phonology</i>	Systems		

To complete the module you take an oral exam (30 minutes) based on the topics of the two seminars you attended. Students who intend to take an oral exam are required to submit a handout (“Thesenpapier“) with key statements to be discussed in the exam (see *HowTo Thesenpapier*).

3.3 Erweiterungsmodul GYM (E5)

See 2.3 “Erweiterungsmodul (E2)” above

3.4 M2 Modul (GYM)

In this module, you attend two seminars, one in Linguistics and one in Literary and Cultural Studies.

In this module you complete the following coursework in one of the two seminars:

Term paper (10 pages / 3,000 words) (*Hausarbeit*) or presentation (30 – 45 minutes) (*Referat*)

3.5. Master-Abschlussmodul

If you want to write a MA thesis in linguistics, you ideally choose a topic linked to one of the linguistics classes you attended.

Students writing their MA thesis in linguistics are strongly advised to attend the class *Linguistic Research Methods*, which is regularly offered in the summer term. This class deals with critical research skills for data collection and (statistical) data analysis, which you will need in your MA thesis.

4 Organising your *Prüfungsleistungen*

Please make sure you register in QIS (<https://vorlesungen.tu-bs.de/qisserver>) for *Prüfungsleistungen* during the time interval announced by the *Prüfungsamt* (www.tu-braunschweig.de/fk6/studierende/apa/elektronischepruefungsanmeldung). Details for the individual modules can be found below.

4.1 Basismodul (B2)

Registration for the B2 exam takes place in the winter term for part 1 and in the summer term for part 2.

4.2 Aufbaumodule (A2, A5) / Erweiterungsmodule (E2, E5)

For the modules A2, A5, E2 and E5, you register in QIS for each *Studienleistung* and *Prüfungsleistung* separately in the term in which you want to complete each, respectively.

You will then register for individual presentations, data analyses (*Projekt mit Praxisanteil*) and term papers with your instructors in the respective seminars. For presentations, you register with the course instructor at the end of Week 2 of each term by choosing a particular topic. For term papers and data analyses, you register with your instructor in the last week of the term and/or by handing in a research proposal in the term break.

Cancellation policy: You cannot cancel your registration for a presentation or for homework exercises once you have registered **and have been assigned a topic**. For a term

paper or a data analysis, cancelling your registration is possible up to one week before the final deadline (as long as you have not yet obtained a topic for it). For term papers, you officially choose a topic once you have **submitted a research proposal**. If you are registered for a term paper or data analysis and fail to submit it on time, you will receive a fail (5.0).

Term papers and data analyses are strictly tied to courses. This means if you decide to write a term paper in one of the courses in the winter term, you will write your term paper during the break following the winter term; if you decide to write your paper in the summer term course, you will write your paper during the term break in the summer.

The deadlines for the submission of term papers and data analyses depend on whether or not you need the credits at the beginning of the following term.

Credits for the module required by...	Submission date	
	Winter term	Summer term
...the beginning of the following term	15 th March	15 th September
... the end of the following term	31 st March	30 th September

Note: The earlier deadlines are relevant for students...

- who want to complete module A2 and move on to module E2 in the following term;
- who want to complete module E2 and want to move on to a Master's programme in the following term.

4.3 BA-Arbeit (Modul E2)

For the BA thesis, you register with your supervisor by handing in a specific form (www.tu-braunschweig.de/fk6/studierende/apa/formulare) available at the *Prüfungsamt*. You usually write your BA thesis during the summer term (<https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/fk6/studierende/apa/pruefungszeitraeume-abschlussarbeiten>). The date of submission is set individually for each student and depends on the date of registration.

4.4 P-Modul

Please register in QIS for the portfolio. For dates of submission, see modules A2 / E2.

5 Requirements

5.1 A2: Data analysis (Projekt mit Praxisanteil)

The length of the data analysis should be approximately 4 to 6 pages (1,200 to 1,800 words).

The topic of your data analysis is based on one of the topics discussed in class. Topics and typically data will be given to students individually in the term break. Typically, you first describe the phenomenon/topic. Then you provide a data analysis to either illustrate the phenomenon and/or

answer a question as well as discuss it. You demonstrate that you can apply the approaches, models or theories presented in class to linguistic data.

We expect you to:

- provide the theoretical background for your topic;
- provide a linguistic data analysis linguistic details in a correct, clear and concise way
- discuss the results of your analysis in relation to your topic;
- submit the written documentation of your project in appropriate form (see Manual of Style).

5.2 E2: Referat mit Ausarbeitung / Hausarbeit

a) Presentation plus written tasks (Referat mit Ausarbeitung)

You give a 30-minute presentation in class, typically on a research paper or course-specific topic provided by the instructor. Afterwards, you contextualise the paper/topic presented in a short essay by embedding it into current research contexts and/or by comparing it to one other relevant study. The length of your essay should be approximately 4-6 pages (1,200 - 1,800 words).

b) Hausarbeit

The length of your term paper should be approximately 12 pages (3,600 words).

Based on the course topics, you will be given several general research questions, of which you choose one and develop a more specific research question / hypothesis for your research proposal. Typically, E2 term papers are theoretical term papers, that means your term paper is based on previous literature. In order to answer your research question or to test your hypothesis, you should use 2 – 3 relevant original research papers. You should use textbooks or handbooks only in a limited way, for example to introduce your topic and the general theoretical background. You demonstrate that you can assess and evaluate different papers or data sets in comparative perspective and come to a reasoned conclusion in the context of current research.

We expect you to:

- provide the theoretical background for your topic / research question;
- present the linguistic details in a correct, clear and concise way, and supported by examples;
- develop and use appropriate criteria for comparing and evaluating papers and data;
- provide a critical reflection and conclusion;
- submit your paper in appropriate form (see Manual of Style).

5.3 BA-Arbeit / Bachelor Thesis

The length of a BA thesis is approximately 25-30 pages (7,500 - 9,000 words).

A BA thesis can either be theoretical or empirical. You are expected to find your own research question and hypothesis. In the BA thesis, you demonstrate that you can read and summarize linguistic research and that you can **apply** knowledge you acquired in seminars to analyzing a phenomenon or conducting a small-scale study.

When writing a theoretical BA thesis, you proceed in the same way as described for “Hausarbeiten” in E2 above. In order to answer your research question or to test your hypothesis, you should use 3 – 5 relevant original research papers.

In the case of an empirical BA thesis, you design or conduct your own research study (i.e., you collect new data), or you use data taken from linguistic corpora.

We expect you to:

- provide the theoretical background for your topic / research question;
- present the linguistic details in a correct, clear and concise way;
- find and apply appropriate methods of data collection, coding and analysis;
- provide a critical reflection and conclusion;
- submit your paper in appropriate form (see Manual of Style).

5.4 M2: Hausarbeit

see 5.2 b) “Hausarbeit”

5.5 MA Arbeit / Master Thesis

The length of an MA thesis is typically 50 – 60 pages (15,000 – 18,000 words).

An MA thesis can either be theoretical or empirical. You are expected to find your own research question. In the MA thesis, you demonstrate that you can read and summarize linguistic research and that you can **transfer** your knowledge to analysing a phenomenon in novel ways or to conducting a novel study based on previous and current research.

When writing a theoretical MA thesis, you proceed in the same way as described for BA theses above. In the case of an empirical MA thesis, you design or conduct your own research study (i.e., you collect new data), or you use data taken from linguistic corpora.

We expect you to:

- provide the theoretical background for your topic / research question;
- present the linguistic details in a correct, clear and concise way;
- find and apply appropriate methods of data collection, coding and analysis;
- provide a critical reflection and conclusion;
- submit your paper in appropriate form (see Manual of Style).

5.6 Modul P: Portfolio

The length of a portfolio is approximately 10 pages (3,000 words). In the portfolio, you demonstrate that you can apply the methods that you have acquired in the class ‘Research methods in Linguistics’ to write a research proposal for a linguistic research project. The research proposal focuses on methodological aspects (i.e., research design, procedure, and data analysis). You are not required to actually carry out the project, but you may use this research proposal for a term paper you subsequently write in an E2 class or for the BA thesis.

We expect you to:

- provide a short theoretical background for your topic / research question;
- report and argue for your choice of research design and methods for data collection, coding and (statistical) data analysis;
- show which graphs, figures and tables you would use for data presentation.