

Single-Subject Bachelor

Dual-Subject Bachelor

**Master** ◀

Master of Education

PhD

### ► General information

**Start:** Winter and Summer semester

**Duration:** 4 semesters

**Degree:** Master of Arts

### ► Application and enrolment

#### Admission requirements

The admission requirement for a Master's degree programme is usually an undergraduate degree in linguistics or in a language/philology (with a specialization in linguistics) or equivalent qualification in the same or a closely related study programme. English language knowledge at B2 level is required and an additional language at A2 level. Non-native speakers of German should have competence at C1 level.

For further information regarding admission requirements (e.g. German language requirements) and the admission application, please refer to the Admission Regulations.

#### Application

Applicants with German university entrance qualification: Submit an online application via the University of Oldenburg.

EU and international applicants:  
Submit an application via uni-assist e.V.

For more detailed information and deadlines, refer to:  
[www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/application-and-enrolment](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/application-and-enrolment)

### ► Your contact persons

#### For enquiries regarding the degree programme/ subject

Academic Counselling

Prof. Dr. Esther Ruigendijk

Phone: +49 (0) 441-798-4695

E-mail: [esther.ruigendijk@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:esther.ruigendijk@uni-oldenburg.de)

#### General advice regarding studies

Study and Career Counselling Service - Zentrale Studien- und Karriereberatung

#### Application procedures / Entry requirements

Admissions Office - Immatrikulationsamt

StudierendenServiceCenter

Campus Haarentor A12

26129 Oldenburg

0441-798-2728

[studium@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:studium@uni-oldenburg.de)

[www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/service-advice](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/service-advice)

### ► Further Information

#### Homepage

[www.uni-oldenburg.de/fk3/studium/ma-sprachdynamik](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/fk3/studium/ma-sprachdynamik)

#### Courses of Study

[www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/degree-programmes](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/degree-programmes)

#### Funding

[www.uni-oldenburg.de/studium/finanzierung](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/studium/finanzierung)

#### Imprint

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## Language Dynamics: Acquisition, Variation, Change (M.A.)

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# Language Dynamics: Acquisition, Variation, Change

How are languages acquired? How do new languages develop from older ones and why do languages become extinct? How do languages adapt throughout society, time and space? The School of Linguistics at the University of Oldenburg is particularly concerned with research issues that focus on the variability of language – essentially, the dynamics of language.

The Language Dynamics Master's programme focuses on acquisition, variation and change in three main areas of linguistic research: psycholinguistics, language contact and language change. We offer students the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects within these disciplines, making this Master's programme truly one of a kind in Germany. The subject languages focused on are provided by the four philologies at the University of Oldenburg: English, German, Dutch and Slavic, but we also welcome students with a different linguistic background. Also included in the programme is a professionalization module of 15 ECTS, meant for individual profiling. Within this module, students can choose courses from related disciplines, depending on their professional interests (for example auditory research, history, special needs education, German as a foreign language, sociology, etc.). Other possibilities include internships, language courses or personal research projects.

The Master's programme is a research-related programme and prepares students for an academic career.

## ► Programme structure and content

During the four-semester Master's programme you will collect a total of 120 ECTS credit points. It consists of the following components, from which you can choose individual specializations:

**Profile course unit** 15 ECTS  
Overview of various linguistic research areas

**Specialization area** 60 ECTS  
You select four course units from the three research specialisations below (each worth

15 ECTS), from at least 2 different philologies: English, German, Dutch or Slavic.

- Specialization 1: Psycholinguistics
- Specialization 2: Language systems and variation
- Specialization 3: Language contact and Language change

**Area of professionalization** 15 ECTS  
Possibility for individual profile creation (for example, language courses, internships, projects, course units from other disciplines, etc.)

**Final Master's thesis unit** 30 ECTS

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120 ECTS

As the term „Language Dynamics“ already suggests, languages are viewed as organisms of constant change and adaptation, which can be seen not only in the individual but also in changes through space and time. With this focus, the Master's programme relates directly to the reality of life for many students whose native language is not German or who are training to be mediators in a foreign language.

The profile course unit consists of an introductory overview of the linguistic research areas at the University of Oldenburg: (1) Psycholinguistics: concerned primarily with the issues of first and second language acquisition, language (acquisition) disorders and speech processing; (2) Language systems: examining the issues of linguistic change, both in a general perspective as well as focused on individual linguistic structure levels. A special feature of the university's research involves the research spheres of Intonation and Graphematics; (3) Language contact: investigates the phenomenon of the emergence of mixed speech forms, in particular the mixture of closely related varieties. This area is directly related to the main research areas (1) and (2).

The professionalization part of the programme allows you to personalize your degree programme. Depending on your desires for your future career, you can, for example, delve

deeper into certain specializations in your studies (not only via the programme course units dedicated to this, but possibly also through participation in a research project), you can select course units from related disciplines such as Auditory research, Sociology, History, or Education/Special Education, or you can take advantage of one of the many other opportunities that the practice-oriented training offers (internships, language courses, journalistic writing, etc.).

The fourth semester is reserved for the completion and defence of the Master's thesis (30 ECTS in total).

A number of collaborations between the participating institutes of German Studies, English/American Studies, Dutch Studies and Slavic Studies at universities abroad make the organization of a semester abroad particularly easy.

## ► Potential career paths

Graduates of the Language Dynamics Master's programme are prepared for a career in the field of language research. Most students continue down an academic PhD path, and this programme ideally prepares students for this with its specialized character. Depending on the kind of specialization students choose, various other career paths are also possible, such as language teaching or migration research.