Language Dynamics: Acquisition, Variation, Change

Master's degree

Facts and figures

Start: Winter and summer semesters
Duration: 4 semesters
Degree: Master of Arts
Language: German
Admission not restricted

Application and enrolment

Admission requirements
General admission requirements: www.uol.de/stud/556en

Language skills:
German native speaker or level C1
English native speaker or level B2
Further foreign language as native language or level A2

Application
Application deadline: 30 September or 31 March

German university degree:
Online application
www.uol.de/studium/bewerben/master

EU or international applicants:
www.uol.de/en/application/international-students/master

Contact

For questions about the subject/degree programme
Academic counselling for Language Dynamics
www.uol.de/en/subject-specific-student-advice

For questions about your studies
Study and Career Counselling Service
www.uol.de/en/zskb

Basic questions about application and enrolment
Student InfoLine
Phone +49 441 798 - 2728
study@uol.de

Visitor address
Student Service Centre – SSC
Haarentor campus, Building A12
26129 Oldenburg
www.uol.de/en/students/service-advice

Further information

Language Dynamics website

Degree programmes at the University of Oldenburg
www.uol.de/en/students/degree-programmes

Financing your studies
www.uol.de/en/students/fees/financing-your-studies

Optional period abroad
www.uol.de/en/going-abroad

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

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 place?

The School of Linguistics at the University of Oldenburg is particularly concerned with research questions that focus on the variability (dynamics) of language. The Language Dynamics: Acquisition, Variation, Change Master’s programme focuses in particular on psycholinguistics, language contact and language change. Students have the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects which combine these disciplines, making this programme truly one of a kind in Germany.

The languages focused on as examples are those taught at the University of Oldenburg (English, German, Dutch and Slavic languages). However, the degree programme is explicitly also suitable for students with a different linguistic background.

The programme also offers an area of specialisation in which students can choose courses from related disciplines, depending on their professional interests (auditory research, history, special needs education, etc.). Other possibilities include internships, language courses and personal research projects.

The Master’s programme is a research-oriented programme that prepares students for an academic career.

Career opportunities

Depending on the specialisation students choose, they can work in the following areas:

- Linguistic research, usually via a PhD
- Language teaching
- Migration research

In a specialisation module, students gain an initial overview of the research focuses of linguistics in Oldenburg. These consist of the following three fields:

1. **Psycholinguistics** above all examines first and second-language acquisition and language processing.

2. **Language system research** looks at questions of language change, both from a general perspective and also focused on individual linguistic structural levels.

3. **Language contact research** examines the phenomenon of the development of mixed speech forms, with an emphasis on the mixture of genetically closely related varieties. This field is directly related to specialisations (1) and (2).

Students must select modules in such a way that over the course of the degree programme they cover at least two areas of specialisation and choose at least two of the philologies English/American Studies, German Studies, Dutch Studies and Slavic Studies.

Additionally, students select an individual specialisation which gives them a further personal profile. Depending on their career plans, students can study certain focus areas in more depth (e.g. by taking corresponding modules or by co-working on a research project), or by taking modules from related disciplines such as auditory research, sociology, history or (special needs) education. Other options that support further specialisation are internships, language courses, journalism etc.

Stay abroad

Thanks to the many cooperation schemes between the participating Institutes for German Studies, English Studies, Dutch Studies and Slavic Studies and foreign universities, organising a semester abroad is easy.

Specialisations

The term language dynamics indicates an approach that tackles language as a constantly changing system. It examines the whole system, from language acquisition by the individual to change phenomena in society, and over place and time. With this focus, the Master’s programme also has a direct reference to the life experience of many students in Oldenburg whose native language is not German or who are studying to become language teachers.