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Curriculum for the  
**Master's Programme German Philology**  
at the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture of the University of Innsbruck

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## **§ 1 Allocation of the study programme**

According to §54 par. 1 of the Universities' Act 2002, the Master's Programme German Philology is allocated to the group of language, literature and culture studies.

## **§ 2 Qualification profile**

- (1) In the Master's Programme German Philology the following competences are imparted: Graduates of the Master's Programme German Philology
- have a theoretically and methodically highly specialized knowledge of subject areas in German studies. This enables them to gain new knowledge, to find and pursue innovative thinking and research approaches.
  - can independently analyse and critically reflect on different forms of expression of language and communication events, also in the field of literary education.
  - can evaluate what is communicated as well as communication processes and analyse and reflect on literary and other cultural artefacts with regards to their aesthetic, rhetoric, narrative and (inter- and trans-)medial states on an advanced level.
  - know about historical developments and contemporary manifestations of the German language and/or German literature. They can assess the historicity of linguistic utterances and literary testimonies and explain the epochal transformations that evoke historical alterity.
  - can analyse, optimize as well as produce with regards to the addressees different types of texts and linguistic forms of expression because of their advanced knowledge of linguistic regularities and linguistic norms as well as their comprehensive understanding for their dependency on non-language factors.
  - analyse and evaluate linguistic processes and products against the background of linguistic variation, multilingualism and language acquisition and incorporate the newly acquired knowledge and information into the further development of their field of work,
  - have a high degree of competence in reflecting and developing different approaches to textual, literary and cultural theory as well as different forms of literary historiography.
  - have a comprehensive knowledge of the socio-cultural and civilizational relevance of linguistic forms of communication.
  - have a specialized, comprehensive, historically and theoretically founded understanding of cultural categories and practices such as gender, diversity, trans- and interculturality and can recognize corresponding phenomena and problem areas in cultural forms of expression and action, especially in their linguistic manifestations, and reflect them from a literary science and linguistic perspective.
  - are able to control and take responsibility for the implementation of strategic decisions.
  - have the competence to work on a subject-specific topic independently, data-based, theory-based and methodically reflected and to present it in the requested form and scope resp. with regards to the audience, in particular a Master's Thesis in consideration of the given scientific standards. Moreover, they have a critical awareness of knowledge issues in a field and at the interface to other fields.
- (2) Graduates of the Master's Programme German Philology can use their expertise in their field of work or study as well as their knowledge from other disciplines for the strategic direction and guidance of complex projects, operational areas or companies. Depending on the focus of their studies they are qualified for working in the following professional fields:
- media: print media, radio, TV, new media etc.,
  - book trade and libraries,
  - publishing: school book publishing houses, literary publishing houses etc.,

- cultural administration and cultural education, houses of literature, cultural authorities, theatre, museums, etc.,
  - adult education: communication advice, writing centres, courses for German as Foreign/Second Language etc.,
  - international culture and education exchange: e.g. within the scope of a lectorship or educational counselling,
  - public relations: businesses, public administration, cultural institutions, etc.,
  - research: university, literary archives, language documentation, edition projects etc.
- (3) The Master's Programme German Philology is science-orientated and the basis for a Doctoral Programme.

### § 3 Scope and duration

The Master's Programme German Philology covers 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a study duration of four semesters. One ECTS-Credit corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

### § 4 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Master's Programme German Philology requires the completion of a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme or a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme at a University of Applied Sciences or another comparable study programme at an approved post-secondary educational institution home or abroad.
- (2) In any case, the Bachelor's Programme German Philology at the University of Innsbruck is considered a relevant study programme. The rectorate decides, according to the Universities' Act, on study programmes in question or on the equivalence of a study programme passed at a post-secondary educational institution home or abroad for the admission to the Master's programme.
- (3) In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required by the rectorate. These examinations must be passed during the respective master's programme.

### § 5 Types of courses and maximum number of participants

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
 

**Lectures (VO)** are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 30
  2. **Practical courses (UE)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of participants: 30
  3. **Lectures with practical elements (VU)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 30

## § 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If criterion no. 1 does not suffice for regulating the admission, then first, students for whom the course is part of a compulsory module are to be given priority, and second, students for whom the course is part of an elective module.
3. If the criteria in no. 1 and 2 do not suffice for regulating the admission, then the available places are raffled.

## § 7 Compulsory and Elective Modules

- (1) The following **compulsory modules** corresponding to altogether **62.5 ECTS-Credits** must be passed:

1.	<b>Compulsory Module: Themes and Perspectives</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>VU Themes and Perspectives of Current Research in German Philology</b> Exemplary study of current issues in research and new perspectives in German Philology in all sub-areas of the subject.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Highly specialised knowledge of current tendencies and new perspectives of research in German Philology, which serve as a basis for innovative thinking and research approaches.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	<b>Compulsory Module: In-Depth Study: German Philology I</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO German Philology</b> Lecture in a field of German medieval studies, modern German literary studies/applied literary studies or linguistics/applied linguistics.	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>UE German Philology</b> Interactive review of selected topics from the field of the lecture.	1	2.5
<b>c.</b>	<b>UE Methods and Theories of German Philology</b> Discussion of selected theories and models of linguistics or literary science, discussion of methods; exercises for the evaluation of research literature on a selected topics and the application of theoretical knowledge on concrete questions.	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Advanced knowledge in a selected field of German Philology and ability to apply this knowledge in a critical and reflected way; knowledge of theories and methods and their fields of application; ability to independently prepare and apply complex subject-specific, methodical and theoretic relations and issues of the subject (possibly also in relation to interdisciplinary perspectives);		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	Compulsory Module: In-Depth Study: German Philology II	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>SE In-Depth Study: German Philology II</b> Seminar in a field of German medieval studies, modern German literary studies/applied literary studies or linguistics/applied linguistics.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Ability to independently prepare, present and develop complex subject-specific, methodical and theoretic relations and issues of the subject (possibly also in relation to interdisciplinary perspectives);		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

4.	Compulsory Module: Forms of Scientific Communication	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VU Scientific Writing and Publishing</b> Scientific writing in process and product orientation as complex process of knowledge reception and production as well as presentation and transfer of knowledge on the basis of scientific research; publishing in the humanities and social sciences.	2	5
b.	<b>VU Oral Scientific Communication</b> Scientific oral communication in process and product orientation: Relationship of rhetoric and knowledge; strategies for producing scientific evidence; argumentation as means of gaining knowledge and examining knowledge; oral genres for communicating knowledge in the society.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Optimization of the text production competence as well as the rhetoric interaction competences in humanities-specific science; analysing and reflecting on complex oral and written genres of the domain of science based on theory; increased scientific faculty of judgement.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

5.	Compulsory Module: Research Seminar I	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>SE Research Seminar I</b> Seminar in a field of German medieval studies, modern German literary studies/applied literary studies or linguistics/applied linguistics or German as a Foreign/Second Language with special focus on current research. There must be a clear thematic difference to research seminar II (compulsory module 6).	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Competence to independently work on, analyse, present and develop subject-specific, methodical and theoretical relationships and questions;		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

6.	Compulsory Module: Research Seminar II	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>SE Research Seminar II</b> Seminar in a field of German medieval studies, modern German literary studies/applied literary studies or linguistics/applied linguistics or German as a Foreign/Second Language with special focus on current research. There must be a clear thematic difference to research seminar I (compulsory module 5).	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Competence to independently work on, analyse, present and develop subject-specific, methodical and theoretical relationships and questions;		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

7.	Compulsory Module: Selected Topics in German Philology I	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses for specialisation from the accordingly marked course offer. Besides of courses in German medieval studies, modern German literary science/applied literary science, German linguistics/applied linguistic or German as Foreign/Second Language, courses on the following topics can be considered: media science, text optimization, research practice of language and literary documentation, professional field orientation, rhetoric;	--	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Competence to reflect selected topics in German Philology independently, technically well founded and theory-based and to relate them to each other; highly specialised knowledge of contents and methods with regards to exemplary fields of work in German Philology; critical awareness for questions of knowledge in a field and at the interface to different other fields.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

8.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Oral defense of the Master's Thesis before an examination board to finalize the studies		2.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Reflection of the Master's Thesis in the overall contexts of the Master's Programme; The focus in on theoretical understanding, methodological foundations, imparting the results of the Master's Thesis as well as presentation skills.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive evaluation of all other compulsory and elective modules, as well as the Master's Thesis.		

- (2) Elective modules corresponding to 30 ECTS-Credits must be passed. In place of elective modules, complementary modules (30 ECTS-Credits) may be taken, providing the availability of places. Complementary modules are specified modules from other curricula corresponding to 30 ECTS-Credits. They are disclosed in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin.

1.	Elective Module: Selected Topics in German Philology II	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>VU Selected Topics in German Philology II</b> Courses in a field of German medieval studies, modern German literary studies/applied literary studies or linguistics/applied linguistics or German as a Foreign/Second Language, text optimization, research practice of language and literature documentation with special focus on current research;	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Competence to reflect selected topics in German Philology technically well founded and theory-based and to independently relate them to each other; highly specialized knowledge of contents and methods with regards to exemplary fields of work in German Philology;		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Elective Module: Practice I	h	ECTS-Credits
	The professional practice corresponding to 120 hours is obtained in institutions, where subject-specific activities are carried out, e.g. in the media (print media, radio, TV, new media), in publishing houses, in corporate communication/advertising, in the field of PR (e.g. politics) or in language teaching (German as Foreign/Second Language), in a literary archive or House of Literature, at a book or literature publisher's or a company (advertising, public relations). The practice can be also made during the lecture-free period. Before starting the practice, it must be approved by the Director of Studies. The duration, scope and contents of the work done must be confirmed by the institution in writing and presented. A report on the practice must be written.		5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students apply their acquired knowledge and skills in a professional environment according to §2 par. 2. Having completed this module, the students are familiar with the conditions of the professional and/or scientific practice.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	Elective Module: Practice II	h	ECTS-Credits
	The professional practice corresponding to 120 hours is obtained in institutions, where subject-specific activities are carried out, e.g. in the media (print media, radio, TV, new media), in publishing houses, in corporate communication/advertising, in the field of PR (e.g. politics) or in language teaching (German as Foreign/Second Language), in a literary archive or House of Literature, at a book or literature publisher's or a company (advertising, public relations). The practice can be also made during the lecture-free period. Before starting the practice, it must be approved by the Director of Studies. The duration, scope and contents of the work done must be confirmed by the institution in writing and presented. A report on the practice must be written.		5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students apply their acquired knowledge and skills in a professional environment according to §2 par. 2. Having completed this module, the students are familiar with the conditions of the professional and/or scientific practice.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

4.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Providing the availability of places, courses corresponding to 10 ECTS-Credits may be taken from the curricula of other Master's and/or Diploma programmes at the University of Innsbruck. It is particularly recommended to take a course dealing with gender aspects including results of women's and gender research.		10
	<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> This module serves to expand the study programme as well as the acquisition of additional qualifications.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.		

### 5. Individual Choice of Specialisation:

For individual specialisation modules corresponding to a maximum of 20 ECTS-Credits can be freely chosen from the Master's Programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck. The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.

### § 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) During the Master's Programme in German Philology a **Master's Thesis** amounting to **27.5 ECTS-Credits** must be written. The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work that proves the ability to work on a scientific topic independently and in a justifiable way in terms of content and methodology.
- (2) The topic of the Master's Thesis must be taken from a field in German medieval studies, modern German literary studies/applied literary studies or linguistics/applied linguistics or German as a Foreign/Second Language.

- (3) Students have the right to suggest the topic for their Master's Thesis or to select from a number of suggestions.

## **§ 9 Examination regulations**

- (1) Courses of modules are evaluated by course examinations. Course examinations are
  1. examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in the lectures in which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define and communicate the method of examination (written or oral) before the course begins.
  2. Courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by participants.
- (2) The course instructor has to inform the students on the objectives, contents and methods, as well as the contents, methods and evaluation criteria of the course examinations in a suitable manner before the start of the course.
- (3) The elective modules Practice are evaluated by the Director of Studies. Positive evaluation reads "participated with success" and negative evaluation "participated without success".
- (4) The compulsory module "Master's Thesis Defense" is evaluated by an oral examination before an examination board. The examination board consists of three persons.

## **§ 10 Academic degree**

The graduates of the Master's Programme German Philology are awarded the academic degree of "Master of Arts", abbreviated "MA".

## **§ 11 Coming into force**

- (1) This curriculum comes into force as of 1 October 2009.
- (2) The changes to the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 13 April 2018, Issue 25, No. 293 come into effect as of 1 October 2018 and are to be applied to all students.