

Note:

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Curriculum for the

Master's Programme Comparative Literature

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 Comparative Literature is allocated to the group of language, literature and culture studies.

§ 2 Qualification profile

- (1) Graduates of the Master's Programme Comparative Literature are specialists for independently and critically dealing with texts, literary and cultural theories, in relation to different literatures as well as in relation to phenomena of intermediality (inclusion of literary texts and others, in particular artistic and medial forms of expression of different cultures). They are also capable of independent interpretation of cultural phenomena and cultural mediation. Graduates have a broad but also highly specialised cultural knowledge and are able to work independently on their own scientific work. Graduates have the skills to organise their work efficiently, to access information quickly, to select it critically, to integrate knowledge from different areas, to develop their own theses and arguments and to formulate and pass them on in an appropriate way to find and pursue innovative research approaches.
- (2) Graduates are able to check the relevance of the scientific and theoretical knowledge and skills acquired during their study programme, also for possible fields of work. They have a critical awareness for questions of knowledge in a field and at the intersection to other fields.

Thereby they acquire the following key qualifications: competence in the field of reception, of interpretation and adaption of (literary) texts; in writing of demanding (scientific or other) texts; competence to convey one's own culture and to promote the understanding of other cultures and gender-specific differences; competence for interdisciplinary work as well as for designing organisational processes in social systems (information management, communicative competences, mediation competence in scientific, political, cultural and economic organisations), competence of managing and designing complex, unpredictable working or learning contexts requiring new strategic approaches. Graduates have an awareness for the gender dimension and are able to incorporate them by applying the above-mentioned competences.

- (3) Graduates of the Master's Programme Comparative Literature can apply their expertise in their field of work or study as well as knowledge from other disciplines for the strategic direction and management of complex projects, functional areas or companies. The Master's Programme Comparative Literature enables them to take responsibility for contributing to the expertise and professional practice and/or reviewing the strategic performance of teams. Possible fields of work: Specialist scientists at universities and non-university institutions (e.g. museums, academies, surveying, specialised publishing houses); publishing – media (contract editorial work; writing specialist books; editorial work and publishing in the field of print media, in particular specialist magazines and newspapers, but also at radio and TV stations and in all new media; PR-agencies; art and culture journalism); archives and (specialist) libraries; educational policy and public relations (advising in politics and economy; adult education, librarianship); cultural politics, administration and mediation (project management for museums and exhibitions; advising for management and (cultural) policy; organisational and administrative tasks in public and private institutions and organisations [cultural management]; theatre (dramaturgy); lectorship abroad, cultural work in Austrian representations abroad, tasks in (cultural) institutions (EU, UNO).
- (4) The Master's Programme Comparative Literature is the basis for a Doctoral Programme.

§ 3 Scope and duration

The Master's Programme English and American Studies 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 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 Comparative Literature or another Bachelor's Programme at the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture of the University of Innsbruck are considered relevant study programmes. 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

Courses with continuous performance assessment:

1. **Practical courses (UE)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of participants: 30.
2. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. 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.
4. **Excursions (EX)**, conducted outside the premises of the university, serve to demonstrate and deepen course contents. Maximum number of participants: 20.

§ 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 **70 ECTS-Credits** must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Fundamentals of Comparative Literary Studies	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Fields and Methods in General and Comparative Literary Science Dealing with questions and issues in General and Comparative Literary Studies; discussion of terms such as "text", "literature", "national literature", "world literature", "culture", "trans- and interculturality"; "literary criticism", "literary history"; insights into the specifics of minority literatures; advanced study of analysis, interpretation and translation of literary texts.	2	5

b.	VU Positions in Literary Theory Discussion of positions in literary theory and methods of literary studies with focus on current theory developments.	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Students specialise their knowledge in the field of literary theories and methods of literary studies with a focus on current theory developments. They develop a problem awareness for questions and effects of literature in a cultural-scientific contexts as well as for gender-specific questions. Students advance their fundamental text competence in the fields of literary as well as scientific texts.			
Prerequisites: none			

2.	Compulsory Module: World Literature and Intertextuality	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Concepts of World Literature and Intertextuality Analytical analysis of concepts of intertextuality and world literature; theoretical reflection and methodological analysis of relevant world literary communication forms and types of texts (e.g. intertextuality, translation, adaptation, parody).	2	5
b.	VU World Literary and Intertextual Analyses Theoretically reflected reading and discussion of selected important works in literature as well as texts in literary studies in relation to concepts in world literature.	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Specialised knowledge of and skills for independently dealing with concepts of intertextuality and world literature and their historic development; competence for analysing and interpreting important works of world literature as well as their interference with social and cultural contexts.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Compulsory Module: Media and Culture Studies	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Media Theory and Intermediality Examination of media-theoretical positions as well as the field of intermediality (relations between literature and other forms of art and media); discussion of media and intermedial theories based on case studies and their aesthetic foundations; exemplary examination of at least one of the topics of intermediality research (case-by-case with practical relevance).	2	5
b.	UE/EX Cultural Theory and Cultural Practice Examination of the relationships between literature and other forms of articulation (e.g. philosophy, politics or religions); insights into questions, topics and methodological concepts of cultural studies as well as cultural theories; examination of gender studies as well as phenomena and problems of demarcations (such as high/low culture, majority cultures / minority cultures, transculturality).	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Students specialise their knowledge in the field of media theory, intermediality and			

	transculturality research as well as gender theories.
	Prerequisites: none

4.	Compulsory Module: Literary Dispositifs and Literary Transfer	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Literary Dispositifs Examination of genre theories and possibilities of analysis of different genres (e.g. prose, poetry, drama, online literature) as well as genres of other types of arts and media (such as film and music genres) with case examples from different times and cultures.	2	5
b.	UE Literary Education Insights into phenomena of literary criticism and teaching literature (print media, radio and new media); cultural journalism; insights into economic, legal and general cultural questions within literary and cultural businesses (e.g. publishing, literary management, cultural administration), in particular book editions (management in publishing, programme planning, editorial, production, press work, distribution, licences, electronic publishing).	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Competence for the independent, detailed and differentiated analysis of texts of different literary and non-literary genres from different times / cultures; awareness of the applicability, location and selectivity of methods of analysis; competence to evaluate processes and connections between production, reception, mediation and processing and to pass on the acquired knowledge. In particular, students are able to independently reflect on economic, social, political and legal problems in the literary context as well as fundamental issues of literary education.			
Prerequisites: none			

5.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Specialisation Subject 1	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Master's Seminar I Specialisation in the field of theoretical and practical analysis of at least one phenomenon from the field of general and comparative literary studies.	2	10
	Total	2	10
Learning Outcomes: Students specialise in a selected area and the associated theoretical and methodological approaches, and can interdisciplinarily link questions of world literature and intertextuality, of intermediality and transculturality, as well as questions of literary education, with literary-theoretical approaches. The students acquire the competence to write scientific papers on issues related to the module as well as to write their Master's Thesis.			
Prerequisites: compulsory module 1			

6.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Specialisation Subject 2	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Master's Seminar II Specialisation in a field of theoretical and practical analysis of at least one phenomenon from the field of general or comparative literary studies –	2	10

	differing from the topic in “Master’s Seminar 1”.		
b.	UE Discussion of the Master’s Thesis Projects Introduction and discussion of Master’s Theses in progress	1	2.5
	Total	3	12.5
<p>Learning Outcomes: Students specialise in a selected area – differing from the topic in Master’s Seminar I - and the associated theoretical and methodological approaches, and can interdisciplinarily link questions of world literature and intertextuality, of intermediality and transculturality, as well as questions of literary education, with literary-theoretical approaches. The students acquire the competence to write scientific papers on issues related to the module as well as to write their Master’s Thesis.</p>			
Prerequisites: compulsory module 1			

8.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master’s Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Specification of the research question, compilation of a selected bibliography, drafting of a theoretically and methodically founded synopsis, including the description of the further steps. Planning of an appropriate time frame for the writing of the Master’s Thesis.	-	5
	Total	-	5
<p>Learning Outcomes: Ability to systematically prepare the Master’s Thesis</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

8.	Compulsory Module: Master Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Defence Oral defence of the Master’s Thesis before an examination board to finalise the studies	-	2.5
	Total	-	2.5
<p>Learning Outcomes: Reflection of the Master’s Thesis in the overall contexts of the Master’s Programme; The focus is on theoretical understanding, methodological foundations, imparting the results of the Master’s Thesis as well as presentation skills.</p>			
Prerequisites: 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: 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
	Total	-	10
	Learning Outcomes: This module serves to expand the study programme as well as the acquisition of additional qualifications.		
	Prerequisites: The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.		

2.	Elective Module: Practice I	h	ECTS-Credits
	To test and apply the acquired knowledge and competences or to orientate on the conditions of the professional practice and to acquire additional qualifications, students can pass a practice covering 5 ECTS-Credits (or 120 hours resp.). The practice can be also made during the lecture-free period. It is recommended to pass it abroad. Before starting the practice, it must be approved by the Director of Studies. The practice must be passed in an institution according to § 2 par. 3. 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. Elective modules 2 and 3 can be passed in the same institution (overall scope of 15 ECTS-Credits or 360 hours).	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students apply their acquired knowledge and skills in a professional environment according to §2 par. 3 and acquire additional qualifications; Having completed this module, the students are familiar with the conditions of the professional and/or scientific practice.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Elective Module: Practice II	h	ECTS-Credits
	To test and apply the acquired knowledge and competences or to orientate on the conditions of the professional practice and to acquire additional qualifications, students can pass a practice covering 10 ECTS-Credits (or 240 hours resp.). The practice can be also made during the lecture-free period. It is recommended to pass it abroad. Before starting the practice, it must be approved by the Director of Studies. The practice must be passed in an institution according to § 2 par. 3. 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.	-	10

	Elective modules 2 and 3 can be passed in the same institution (overall scope of 15 ECTS-Credits or 360 hours).		
	Total	-	10
	Learning Outcomes: Students apply their acquired knowledge and skills in a professional environment according to §2 par. 3 and acquire additional qualifications; Having completed this module, the students are familiar with the conditions of the professional and/or scientific practice.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4. Individual Choice of Specialisation (maximum of 20 ECTS-Credits):

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 acc. to §54 par. 1 of the Universities' Act. The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) In the Master's Programme a **Master's Thesis** amounting to **20 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 the compulsory modules of the curriculum.
- (3) Students have the right to suggest the topic for their Master's Thesis or to select from a number of suggestions.
- (4) The students are entitled to write the Master's Thesis in a foreign language if the supervisor agrees to it.
- (5) Several students may work on a topic together, if it is possible to evaluate the contributions of the individual students.
- (6) In order to enable students to complete the task of writing the Master's Thesis according to §81 (2) Universities' Act within six months (corresponds to 30 ECTS-Credits), the scientific paper (corresponding to 22.5 ECTS-Credits) is preceded by the "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" (corresponding to 5 ECTS-Credits). The study programme is completed by the "Master's Thesis Defence (Defensio) corresponding to 2.5 ECTS-Credits.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) Courses with continuous assessment, are courses 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 read "participated with success", negative valuation "participated without success".
- (4) The compulsory module "Master's Thesis Defence" 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 Comparative Literature 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 25 April 2018, Issue 28, No. 319 come into effect as of 1 October 2018 and are to be applied to all students.
- (3) The changes to the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28. June 2019, Issue 68, No. 607 come into effect as of 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.