

COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND LANGUAGE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

Guide for students

The *Cognitive Science and Language* (CCiL) program is a postgraduate interdisciplinary program focused on language and cognition as approached from three different disciplines: Psychology, Linguistics and Philosophy. Its goal is to educate and promote researchers in the field of Language and Cognition Studies with interdisciplinary motivation, providing the scientific formation and the methodological tools necessary to carry out high level research in a specific subtopic. The program is co-organized by five different Catalan universities: Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Universitat Rovira i Virgili and Universitat de Girona.

Master and PhD

CCiL has two subprograms: *CCiL Master Program* and the *CCiL PhD Program*.

- The **CCiL Master** Program is the first, taught period (between 60 and 120 credits, 1-2 years respectively). It provides an official Master Degree and qualifies for applying to the CCiL PhD program (although the acceptance depends on an admission process).
- The **CCiL PhD** Program is the second, research period, during which students are expected to carry out the research for, and complete, a doctoral dissertation, the submission of which will earn them the PhD degree.

Language

Official languages are English, Spanish and Catalan. The language of each course is announced at the time of registration. Every branch offers enough courses in English so that it is possible to complete the whole second year of the master in English; in particular, all mandatory courses, and at least 3 optional courses per branch, are in English. Other program activities (talks, workshops, conferences ...) are mainly in English.

Quality award

The whole program has been classed as “first-rate” postgraduate program (‘Programa de Calidad’) by the Catalan and Spanish quality-evaluation agencies since it started in 1989. This qualification facilitates scholarships and other economic aids for students.

Master in Cognitive Science and Language

Student's guide

Structure

The CCiL master is the first, taught period. It has three different branches: Psychology, Linguistics and Philosophy. The student has to apply to one of these branches.

Every branch has two profiles/itineraries: research and academic:

- the research profile is addressed to students who want to enter into the PhD research period and complete a doctoral dissertation,
- the academic profile is addressed to students who want to extend their undergraduate academic education with no intention to pursue a research career and enter into the PhD period.

20-60 background credits

Students that apply to a branch with a degree different from the discipline of the branch applied (e.g. applying to the Psychology branch with a previous degree in Computer Engineering; or to the Philosophy branch with a degree in Linguistics) must do, prior to the 60 master crs, between 20 and 60 background teaching crs by taking preparatory courses. The admission committee will decide the exact number of background crs depending on the specific degree/formation of the applicant.

60 master credits

Students that apply to one branch with a qualified degree in the same discipline (e.g. applying to the Psychology branch with a degree in any specific field in psychology), may start directly the 60 master crs.

In every branch, the 60 master crs are divided, for research/academic profiles, as following:

- research profile: 40 teaching crs by taking 8 courses and 20 research crs by a final research work;
- academic profile: 50 teaching crs by taking 10 courses and 10 research crs by a final research work.

(i) 40/50 teaching credits

- 3 interdisciplinary courses which are mandatory for every student of every branch
- 2 courses per branch which are mandatory for every student of the branch
- 3/5 optional courses per branch to be chosen among the offered by the branch or (with a maximum of 2) by the other branches.

The CCiL Master Committee can recognize some of the courses completed in other related masters as equivalent to specific second-year courses and thereby waive part of these 40 credits, up to maximum of 20.

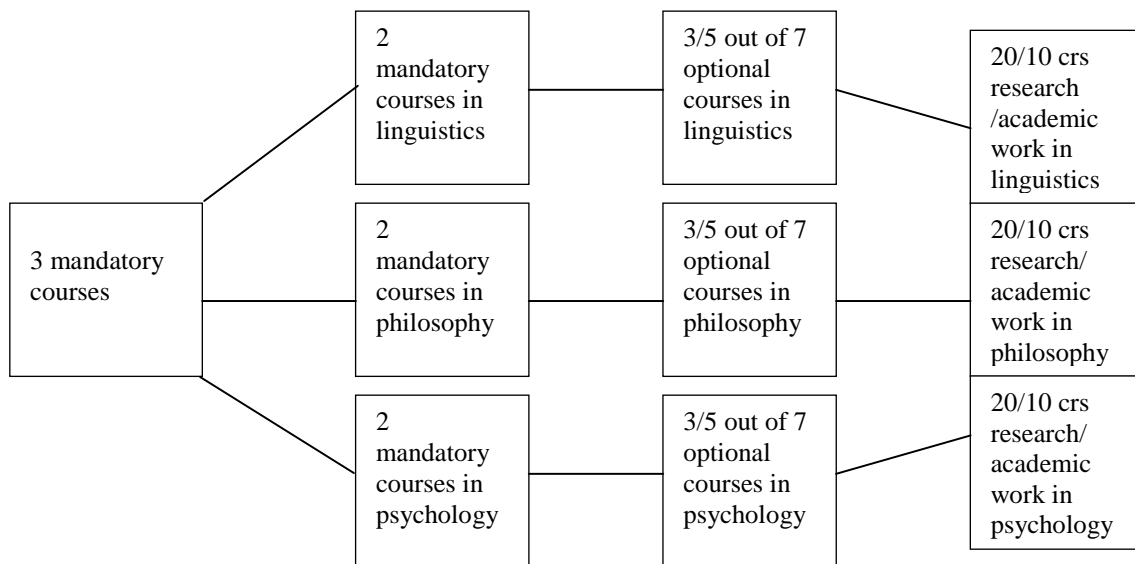
(ii) 20/10 research/academic credits

The 20/10 final work credits can be obtained either by writing a theoretical paper or by an experimental research with a final written report. In both cases the work will be tutored by

one of the teachers of the corresponding branch and graded by at least two co-examiners determined by the branch-tutor in agreement with the teacher that has tutored the research. The student has to defend the research in a public session with the examiners. Every branch can specify additional format and grade conditions for these 20/10 final work credits, the branch-coordinator will inform the students about them.

Note that, for research students, the tutor of the 20 crs research need not be (and often will not be) the PhD-supervisor assigned to the student if admitted to the PhD period. Although they may coincide, tutoring a 20 crs research works does not imply any commitment to supervising the PhD dissertation if the student enters into a CCiL PhD program.

60 master crs structure



Application, acceptance and enrolment

In order to apply for the master program students must first complete the on-line pre-enrolment. In particular, together with the on line forms, students must specify the research/academic profile and submit:

- (a) a list of courses completed for their degree with grades achieved (specifying the maximum possible grade in each case), in either Catalan, Spanish or English (although for the formal enrolment an official Spanish translation is always required)
- (b) a general CV in Catalan, Spanish or English
- (c) a letter of interest, which must include which branch the candidate wishes to apply to.

Students interested in applying for some of the grants (see the grants section) must deliver, in addition:

- (d) a sample of work representative of their interests and skills, e.g. a piece of course work or an independently written paper, between 3000 and 6000 words, in Spanish, Catalan or (preferably) English

(e) two letters of reference specifically written in support of a grant application, not just the master application.

There are three pre-enrolment application periods. After every deadline, the CCiL Master Admission Committee will

- decide acceptance or rejection and, in case of acceptance, whether the student may start directly with the 60 master crs or has to do 20-60 prior background crs
- assign a *master-tutor* to every student.

The CCiL administration will notify applicants by email, specifying acceptance or rejection, the number of credits to achieve in case of acceptance and the tutor. After the notification, the student must contact his or her tutor in order to agree the courses he or she is to register for. There are two registration periods, September-October and January-February, each one to register for courses in the corresponding Fall/Spring term. The registration is processed by one of the universities, which will be specified every year on the CCiL web pages.

The minimum period for achieving the 60 master crs is 1 year. The master program is designed in such a way that full-time students can be expected to achieve the credits within this period. However, if a student is not able to study full-time, or wants to devote more than one year to reach the crs, he or she may agree with his or her tutor to complete the courses over an appropriately longer period.

Master-tutor

The master-tutor is assigned by the Admission Committee to every accepted student. This assignment does not predetermine in any way the PhD-supervisor(s) and, in a grant application, the grant-supervisor. The master tutor will:

- (a) advise the student about possible courses to register for according to his/her interests and skills
- (b) sign the student's enrolment form
- (c) mediate, when necessary, between the student and the CCiL-branch-coordinator and CCiL staff
- (d) help the student in any other academic matters.

Branch-coordinators

CCiL Master has one general coordinator and one branch coordinator in every university with teaching duties in the branch. These branch coordinators will:

- (a) coordinate together with the the general CCiL Master Coordinator, the teaching of the branch
- (b) help master-tutors in any academic or administrative matters
- (c) inform the students about general academic issues that concern them, receive their suggestions, and eventual complaints; to this end, the branch coordinator will meet the branch's students twice a year, at the beginning of the first term and at the end of the second

(d) pass on information from the general master coordinator to the branch's teaching staff, receive any suggestions or complaints from the teaching staff; to this end the branch coordinator will meet the branch's teaching staff at least twice a year.

Student representatives

There will be one student representative per branch of the master, to be elected among the students of each branch by themselves. A branch's student representative will:

- (a) inform the branch-coordinator about any issue/question/complaint related to aspects of the master program concerning students of the branch in general,
- (b) meet the branch's students at least twice a year (once per term), and receive any issue/question/complaint students want to raise,
- (c) call a general meeting of students of the branch when at least 30% of them ask for such a meeting in relation to some specific issue.

Other student's duties

Together with the regular duties for the achievement of credits, CCIIL students must attend the main activities organized by the whole master or the corresponding branch. In particular, at least

- (a) The annual Opening CCIIL Lecture
- (b) The annual CCIIL workshop
- (c) General CCIIL talks
- (d) General branch-talks

Which talks belong to (c) and (d) and are thereby mandatory will be specified in the talk announcements.