MASTER’S THESIS

Guidelines

The topic of the thesis can focus on aspects of learning and teaching of foreign and second languages as well as aspects of multilingualism. Topics on language with relevance to real world problems are especially welcome. The quality and appropriateness of the research design and methods are essential aspects of your Master’s Thesis and will take priority over issues of originality and statistical significance of results.

The thesis should be entirely your own individual work and it should not have been submitted previously as course paper for a degree at this or any other university. It should be preferably written in English.

Length 8,000-9,000 or 9,000-10,000 words for quantitative and qualitative studies, respectively, including tables and notes (excluding references and appendices). Please write the number of words at the end of the conclusion and before the references.

Format Font 12 / 1 ½ spacing / wide margins on one side.

Type Both critical/state-of-the art essays and empirical studies (quantitative, qualitative or mixed methodologies). Replication studies are also welcome.

Contents For research studies, include the following sections (not necessarily with these labels): Abstract (100-200 words), Contents, Introduction/literature review, Research question(s)/focus of the study, Methods, Analysis, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, List of References. Always include an index and a list of references.

Period February-June (for full-time students), defense July October - January (part-time students), defense February

Submission - End of June, Your Master’s Thesis must obtain your supervisor’s approval before it can be submitted. Your supervisor will produce a report of your work. This report will be made available to the members of the board.
- 5 copies of your Master’s Thesis are to be handed in at the department secretary’s
- Each submitted copy of your MA Thesis must contain a signed copy of the non-plagiarism statement form.

Oral Presentation Board of 3 members. 10 minutes for presenting your work. Each member of the board will have 5-7 minutes to comment on your work and to ask you questions. You can take notes about the questions put forward by each member of the board and will then have a maximum of 10 minutes to answer them at the end.
Other features:

- **About topics**: A list of topics will be made available for students to choose from. Alternatively, students are also encouraged to come up with their own ideas for the thesis, preferably related to work experience.

- **About available data**: Students are encouraged to make use of available learner data from previous and ongoing research projects in our department. These will be presented and made available to students at a special meeting to discuss research topics that will take place in December 2015. Collecting your own data is possible, but you should seriously consider the workload it represents and the time constraints your project will be subject to.

- **Size of empirical work**: In cases were data is collected from scratch, consider the thesis as a pilot study in the design of the study (i.e., sample sizes, etc.)

- **References**: Include only references you have directly read. In the reference list, only include works that have been referred to in the text.

- **Appendices**: Avoid lengthy appendices in print but include supporting data such as descriptive results (lengthy transcriptions may be presented in electronic format)


- **Manuscript presentation**: Double sided printed recommended. Soft or hard cover binding.

Examples of previous M.A. theses can be found here: