

## MA in English Linguistics

This answers the main questions concerning the MA in English linguistics. Before reading what is below, make sure you have already studied the *plan d'études* carefully. Here is the link:

[http://www2.unine.ch/files/content/shared/files/Fac.%20des%20lettres%20et%20sh/Facult%C3%A9%20des%20lettres%20et%20sciences%20humaines/plan\\_etudes\\_ma/Sciences\\_du\\_langage\\_et\\_de\\_la\\_communication\\_MA.pdf](http://www2.unine.ch/files/content/shared/files/Fac.%20des%20lettres%20et%20sh/Facult%C3%A9%20des%20lettres%20et%20sciences%20humaines/plan_etudes_ma/Sciences_du_langage_et_de_la_communication_MA.pdf)

Given that our English department is quite small, we cannot offer enough MA courses for you to complete your degree requirements. There are several different ways of circumventing this problem.

- a) **Lectures dirigées** (directed readings): The procedure is simple and informal. You and the professor agree on the subject of the directed reading. (This could be a whole subdiscipline or a much more specific topic. It may or may not be an area new to you. It may or may not be related to your intended thesis topic.) The professor chooses (perhaps with the help of your suggestions) some material for you to study (say two or three books or a set of articles). Your understanding of the material can be assessed in any manner (oral tests, essays, written tests, written exercises). You can do directed readings in whichever semester you want. The *plan d'études* specifies the maximum amount of credits obtainable through directed readings.
- b) **BA courses** can under certain circumstances be taken as part of the MA programme. If you do a BA seminar as an MA seminar, you will have to do some extra reading or have a higher standard expected of you, which is determined by the person teaching the seminar. If you are thinking of doing a BA seminar as an MA seminar, please discuss this with the professor of English linguistics first.
- c) **Courses at other universities** can be taken as part of the linguistics MA, provided that you have permission from the person teaching the course and from the professor of English linguistics in Neuchâtel. The option of doing a BA course as part of an MA is also available in this case. To help you find suitable courses elsewhere, here is a link to other English departments in Switzerland:  
[http://www2.unine.ch/cms/lang/en\\_GB/pid/14125](http://www2.unine.ch/cms/lang/en_GB/pid/14125)  
Money is available to subsidise students' travel costs in certain cases (programmes BeNeFri and Triangle Azur):  
<http://www2.unine.ch/mobilite/page-3577.html>
- d) The **tronc commun** (henceforth: **core curriculum**): These *subjects* (as opposed to *courses*) make up the credits. So if an MA course in e.g. sociolinguistics is offered at another university or in another institute at Neuchâtel (say the English, Spanish departments), you can get the core curriculum credits in that course. This applies even to subareas of the subjects mentioned. However, to be on the safe side it is best to ask the coordinator of the linguistics MA programme whether the course can be counted.