

National University of Ireland, Galway



Master of Arts: Advanced Language Skills, German, 2011-2012

(Programme is also available for French, Spanish and Italian)

This Masters Programme is designed to provide advanced linguistic and technical training to prepare linguists for careers in several areas of specialised language work. There is a rapidly growing demand for these skills both in Ireland and abroad. It will offer graduates in languages the possibility of developing their German language skills to a very high level, deepening their understanding of the workings of language as an essential communication tool and gaining experience in the expanding area of translation technology. The German strand of the MA ALS caters for graduates whose first language is English or whose language of habitual use is English.

The emphasis is placed on:

- advanced language skills both oral and written. Students will acquire a very high level of communication skills in German, and through translation practice into English also refine written English expression
- the development of skills in advanced and specialised translation with an emphasis on translation software and the latest technological developments
- independent research: each student will complete a dissertation of approximately 15,000 - 20,000 words on a topic to be decided in consultation with the course coordinators. This module enables students to undertake a substantial research project. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate how the theoretical and methodological issues of their MA studies relate to a topic of their choice within their discipline. The dissertation will show that the student has applied the full range of knowledge and resources applicable to the topic and has demonstrated the capacity for independent research
- training in the skills of consecutive interpreting
- developing skills in intercultural communication which will lead to a better understanding of today's culturally diverse world.

A total of 90 European Credit Transfer System credits will be required for the completion of the degree. Emphasis is placed on continuous assessment and feedback to students.

Entry requirements

An interview may form part of the selection process. Ideally, students should have at least a 2:2 honours degree in the language they wish to study. In addition, applicants should preferably have spent a total of at least twelve months in the country whose language they wish to study. Non-native speakers of English should ideally have a degree in English or advanced English language skills.

Students from outside of Ireland whose first language is not English must provide documented evidence that their English language ability meets the required standard for admission. They should demonstrate an excellent level in results from an acceptable English language proficiency test (an overall minimum IELTS score of at least **6.5 or equivalent** undertaken no more than two years prior to the commencement of this programme at the University).

For details on English Language Proficiency Tests, e.g., TOEFL or IELTS, see www.ets.org/toefl/ and www.ielts.org for information on testing centres and dates.

MA Advanced Language Skills Course Programme 2011-2012

Compulsory Modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Hours weekly</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
GR 562	Advanced Language Skills 1	1	10	1 hour	Continuous assessment & in-house tests
GR 563	Advanced Language Skills 2	2	10	3 hours	
GR 560	Translation Methodology and Consecutive Interpreting 1	1 and 2	10	4 hours*	Continuous assessment & in-house tests
GR 561	Translation Methodology and Consecutive Interpreting 2	1 and 2	10	4 hours	
GR551	Minor Dissertation Dissertation Preparation	1 and 2 2	30	1 hour	Submit: July 2011

*Contact hours may vary depending on course participants

Optional Modules: Choose two

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Hours weekly</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
FR554/GR554/IT554/ SH554	Language and Intercultural Communication	1	10	2 hours	Continuous Assessment
SH505	Translation Studies 1	1	10	2 hours	Continuous Assessment & End-of-Term Exam
MIC 504	The Art of Reading	1	10	2 hours	In-house Test
GR 522	Modern German Literature I	1	10	2 hours	Essay

Number of places

Places on the programme - 30.

Availability

The programme will start in September 2011 and may not be on offer at each cycle.

Programme Duration

The programme is full-time over one academic year (September to August).

Programme Content

Translation Methodology and Text

This module will train students in the skills and techniques required by translators in the professional world. It will also provide a theoretical and practical in-depth examination of the conceptual background, development and use of technology in translation. Skills in advanced and specialised translation will be developed with an emphasis on translation software and the latest technological developments in translation work. This module will include hands on experience with translation tools including TRADOS translation solution and tutorials will be provided for discussion of translations issues. Seminars will be supplemented by specialist workshops and lectures by visiting industry professionals. Modes of assessment will include a mixture of project work and regular translation assignments and in-house tests.

Introduction to the Skills of Consecutive Interpreting

Students will participate in realistic interpreting with the emphasis on frequently encountered scenarios. During practical seminars and workshops in the classroom and language laboratory an emphasis will be placed on intensive practice of consecutive interpretation. This will involve the use of authentic material, including bilateral discussions on a variety of topics between native speakers of the practised languages as well as pre-recorded speeches of four to five minutes. A range of exercises aimed at developing memory, note-taking, enunciation and good presentation skills will be practised by students. The topics discussed in the exercises will emulate the variety of issues raised in government and international organisations as well as in business and commerce. Such training will correspond to professional demands placed on interpreters.

Advanced Language Skills

Students will attain a very high level of both oral and written German communication skills. This module will consolidate the language skills already acquired at degree level. Competences in reading, aural, speaking and writing skills will be further developed. A programme of oral and written texts and translations encourages students to extend their command of grammar and vocabulary and their sensitivity to stylistic variation, nuance and register. This will further their fluency and accuracy, extend their manipulation of various genres and registers of text in the language being studied and enhance their vocabulary, syntax and idiom.

Advanced Language Skills 1 and 2 includes the following course elements which take place over two terms: Creative and Professional Writing, Literary Translation, Journalistic Translation, Rhetorical Skills.

Language and Intercultural Communication

Intercultural competence is a necessary requirement in today's society; we have contact with people from many different cultures and backgrounds in our everyday lives. This module examines theoretical perspectives of culture and communication and the application of this theory to real-life settings in a variety of cultural contexts. Reflection on and extension of one's own perspectives, experiences and observations is encouraged, as well as thought on overcoming obstacles to mutual understanding in an increasingly diverse world. This course is participative, makes use of a variety of media sources and is delivered in English.

Translation Studies 1

The course aims to introduce students to a range of key issues, both practical and theoretical, of relevance to translation. Reference is made in the course to a wide range of literature on translation, with the aim of encouraging students to explore the subject in depth and to bring theoretical issues to bear on the translation exercises that they carry out during the year. The course is delivered in English.

The Art of Reading

This module provides an introduction to recent canon debates in world literature and to theoretical approaches to textual analysis in modern literary and cultural studies. Students will familiarise themselves with key concepts of interpretation, as they have developed within the last 50 years (poststructuralism, gender studies, postcolonialism, hermeneutics, New Historicism, etc.). The course also covers research methodologies and skills in reviewing literary texts and films.

German Literature 1

Students will read and discuss exemplary literary texts from various genres and various literary epochs from 18th-21st centuries. Special attention will be given to historical and cultural contexts and to intertextual relationships. Students will also learn to apply various methods of interpretation.

Dissertation

Each student will complete a dissertation of 15,000-20,000 words on a topic to be decided in consultation with staff members. This module enables students to undertake a substantial research project on any aspect of the programme, subject to the approval of the programme coordinators. The module provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate how the theoretical and methodological issues of their MA studies relate to a topic of their choice within their discipline. The dissertation will show that the student has applied the full range of knowledge and resources applicable to the topic, has demonstrated the capacity for independent research and has synthesised and evaluated information from all relevant sources and presented it in a critical manner. A tutorial on dissertation preparation will be offered to aid students in writing their dissertation. The dissertation, which can be written in English or German, is to be submitted at the end of July 2011 and a *viva voce* will form part of the assessment.

Course Co-ordinator for German

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Course Directors

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