



**University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>**

**English Department**

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# **Study Guide**

**Master English Literature/Linguistics  
Major & Minor Programs**

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## Preliminary Remark: Legal Regulations

Please note that the applicable legal regulations can be found in the framework ordinance (*Rahmenverordnung*) and the program regulation (*Studienordnung*) for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences:

<https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/rechtsgrundlagen.html>

[https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/rechtsgrundlagen/rechtsgrundlagen\\_master.html](https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/rechtsgrundlagen/rechtsgrundlagen_master.html)

The information below is for illustrative purposes only and should be regarded as a recommendation. In case of any contradictions between this document and the legal regulations or between the German version and a translation, only the legal regulations or the German version, respectively, have legal bearing.

Table 1 outlines the function of the various documents that are available.

**Table 1: Types of Documents**

Document	Explanation
<i>Rahmenverordnung</i>	The <i>Rahmenverordnung über die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge an der Philosophischen Fakultät der Universität Zürich (RVO PhF)</i> constitutes the legal framework for the Bachelor and Master programs at the UZH Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
<i>Studienordnung der Studienprogramme der Philosophischen Fakultät</i>	The <i>Studienordnung</i> implements and details the legal framework outlined in the <i>Rahmenverordnung</i> . It consists of a general section ( <i>Allgemeiner Teil</i> ), which concerns the regulations that apply to all programs at the UZH Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and of several appendices, each of which concerns one particular study program ( <i>programmspezifische Anhänge</i> , e.g. for English Literature and Linguistics).
<i>Programmspezifische Anhänge zur Studienordnung</i>	The <i>programmspezifische Anhänge</i> outline the detailed regulations for each study program. The core element is the study plan, which contains information concerning the structure of the program as well as the program requirements. These requirements detail which modules students need/may choose to complete their studies in this particular program.
<i>Modulkatalog</i>	The <i>Modulkatalog</i> outlines all modules offered as part of a particular program. Some of these modules are offered on a regular basis; others are offered on a semester-to-semester basis. For a full overview of modules offered in any given semester, students may consult the online course catalog: <a href="https://studentservices.uzh.ch">https://studentservices.uzh.ch</a>
<i>Mustercurriculum</i>	The <i>Mustercurriculum</i> outlines one particular way in which one can complete the program requirements. Note that there are other ways of organizing your studies (cf. section on sample timetables below).
<i>Wegleitung zu einzelnen Programmen</i>	The <i>Wegleitung</i> or study guide intends to explain the regulations for one particular program. The current document provides students with a very rough overview. A more detailed study guide is available on the English Department website: <a href="https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master.html">https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master.html</a> .
<i>Wegleitung für das Studium an der PhF</i>	In addition to the study guides for individual programs, the UZH Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences provides further guidelines and explanatory documents. For more information, see <a href="https://www.phil.uzh.ch/en/studium.html">https://www.phil.uzh.ch/en/studium.html</a> .

## **Welcome to the UZH English Department!**

Established in 1887 (as the “Romanisch-Englisches Seminar”), this is not only the oldest, but also the largest English Department in Switzerland and one of the larger departments in the German-speaking part of Europe. We are proud to offer a wide range of courses in both English literature and linguistics, with a broad coverage for historical studies in both fields (including mediaeval literature and language history from Old English to the 21<sup>st</sup> century).

Our department has eight professorships (given this is Switzerland, we have parity and four in each field) and – until the end of January 2021 – an additional assistant professorship for Global literatures. With a total staff of over 50 we offer Bachelor, Master and PhD programs and are committed to high standards in research and teaching, which is evidenced by our research output, regular course evaluations from students and particularly the fact that our students are regularly awarded the faculty’s prestigious semester prizes for best papers.

We are strongly committed to cooperation with other departments within our faculty (e.g. in the cross-disciplinary course programs in linguistics and literature) and across Switzerland and Europe. We have benefited from the Bologna 2020 reform to carefully design our course programs and guide students, both at Bachelor and Master levels, through their studies in an efficient way while at the same time leaving room for specialization in various areas. We firmly believe it is paramount to make teaching methods research-based so students make most of their time in class and acquire methodological expertise and analytical skills.

In the name of all our staff members, let me welcome you warmly to the English department!

Prof. Dr. Daniel Schreier  
Head of Department

## Information on the Master Programs in English

### 1 Master in English Literature and Linguistics

#### 1.1 Aims of the Program

The UZH Master programs in English Literature and/or Linguistics build upon and expand the skills and knowledge students gained during their Bachelor studies. At the same time, the programs are designed to offer a **great deal of flexibility** to advanced students wishing to pursue particular interests within either of these two areas.

- **Main Area 1: English Literature**

In the field of English Literature, students will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of theoretical debates, paying particular attention to the historical context of critical traditions and on how these relate to the wider cultural field.

**Key areas** explored include intermediality and audiovisual culture; the relation between literary history, identity, and collective memory (from the Renaissance to the present); and the politics of literary representation – e.g. in relation to gender or with a view to (post-)colonial power structures.

Students will practice their ability to describe aesthetic phenomena with great precision and increasing nuance, contextualizing works of literature in the broader cultural field and situating their own interpretations within specific critical debates.

- **Main Area 2: English Linguistics**

In the field of English Linguistics, students will learn how to develop their own research design in **specialized areas in English linguistics**, such as language use, variation and change; the relation between language and the mind; as well as language structure.

Students will have the chance to encounter, debate, and contribute to state-of-the-art research in historical linguistics (incl. medieval literature and culture), English as a world language, and the field of pragmatics, from both a synchronic and a diachronic perspective.

In doing so, students will learn how to reflect critically on their own choice of method and theory, and continue to hone their skills in preparing, analyzing, and interpreting increasingly complex sets of linguistic data.

#### **Writing Skills, Stay Abroad Reports, and Independent Projects**

In addition, the UZH Master programs in English Literature and/or Linguistics include advanced writing and media studies modules in which students fine-tune their ability to present complex material in an accessible and academically sound manner.

The program also provides students with the option of submitting research-based reports based on extended stays abroad, as well as gaining credit for documented independent projects that grow out of interests developed in the course of their studies. **By the end of their studies, students will thus have acquired all the necessary skills to conduct independent scholarly work.**

## 1.2 Job Prospects

The Master programs in English Literature and/or Linguistics prepare students for later employment in a range of areas, particularly teaching and education, editing, journalism, PR, advertising, marketing, film, translation, administration, and diplomacy.

Moreover, **graduates with a strong academic record will have the option of pursuing a PhD** and thus lay the basis for a possible career in higher education.

## 1.3 Prerequisites

Information on the prerequisites for the UZH Master programs in English Literature and/or Linguistics can be found:

- in the legal documents provided by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (in German) [https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/rechtsgrundlagen/rechtsgrundlagen\\_master.html](https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/rechtsgrundlagen/rechtsgrundlagen_master.html)
- on the English Department website:
  - for prospective students: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/prospective.html>
  - prerequisites: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/prospective/prerequisites.html>

## 1.4 Difference(s) between Major and Minor

The Master Major program in English Literature and/or Linguistics is the right choice for students:

- aiming at an academic career in the field of English Literature and/or Linguistics;
- wishing to do the *Lehrdiplom für Mittelschulen* with English as their first or only teaching subject (see <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/studyadvice/lehrdiplom.html> for more information);
- whose main interests lie in the field of English Studies.

Within the program, students can pursue three different tracks:

1. **English Literature and Linguistics** (recommended for *Lehrdiplom* candidates)  
Major: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/major90/requirements/englishliteratureandlinguistics.html>  
Minor: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/minor30/requirements/englishliteratureandlinguistics.html>
2. **English Literature only**  
Major: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/major90/requirements/englishliteratureonly.html>  
Minor: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/minor30/requirements/englishliteratureonly.html>
3. **English Linguistics only**  
Major: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/major90/requirements/englishlinguisticsonly.html>  
Minor: <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/minor30/requirements/englishlinguisticsonly.html>

The same three tracks can also be pursued in the Master Minor in English Literature and/or Linguistics. However, the choice of modules is more restricted (e.g. there is no module group with “Transferable Skills”), and students will not be writing their Master Thesis in the field of English Studies.

Students wishing to do the *Lehrdiplom für Mittelschulen* with English as their second or additional teaching subject are strongly recommended to pursue the ‘mixed’ track (i.e. English Literature and Linguistics).

## 1.5 About the Curriculum

The English Department website contains a wealth of information about the Bachelor Major and Minor. In particular, students may consult the following:

- **Major**
  - Requirements:  
<https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/major90/requirements.html>
  - Module groups:  
<https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/major90/modulegroups.html>
- **Minor**
  - Requirements:  
<https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/minor30/requirements.html>
  - Module groups:  
<https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/minor30/modulegroups.html>

Students wishing to change from the Major to the Minor or vice versa should ideally do so early on in their studies. For more information, please contact the study advisor: [englishstudies@es.uzh.ch](mailto:englishstudies@es.uzh.ch)

## 1.6 Sample Timetable vs. Individual Study Plan

One basic sample timetable is available on the website of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (in German): [https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/rechtsgrundlagen/rechtsgrundlagen\\_master.html](https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/rechtsgrundlagen/rechtsgrundlagen_master.html)

In addition, the English Department website provides sample timetables for both Major and Minor students:

- **Major:** <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/major90/sampletimetables.html>
- **Minor:** <https://www.es.uzh.ch/en/master/advanced/minor30/sampletimetables.html>

Note that individual study plans may vary. For example, if you work part-time, then you will very likely want to do fewer than 30 ECTS per semester (which is considered the full-time workload).

Contact the study advisor if you are unsure about your study plan: [englishstudies@es.uzh.ch](mailto:englishstudies@es.uzh.ch)

## 2 Further Information and Contacts

Information on your studies:

- Advising of studies: [englishstudies@es.uzh.ch](mailto:englishstudies@es.uzh.ch)
- Study abroad coordinator: [studyabroad@es.uzh.ch](mailto:studyabroad@es.uzh.ch)

Student groups:

- Fachverein Anglistik FAVA (student association): [fava@es.uzh.ch](mailto:fava@es.uzh.ch)
- Drama group: [info@blueprintmasquerades.com](mailto:info@blueprintmasquerades.com)
- The Zurich English Student (online blog): [zest.editor@gmail.com](mailto:zest.editor@gmail.com)

Alumnae/-i:

- UZH Alumni English Studies: [es-alumni@alumnioffice.uzh.ch](mailto:es-alumni@alumnioffice.uzh.ch)

The **ES Alumni Student Fund** supports academic and study-related projects by Bachelor and Master students of English Literature and /or Linguistics. Examples include:

- student research projects;
- the Blueprint Masquerades (English Department drama group);
- small travel bursaries (e.g. for field work, or to attend an academic conference);
- the Shakespeare Week;
- course-related excursions (max. CHF 50.- per student).

Bookshops:

- Orell Füssli: [www.orellfuessli.ch](http://www.orellfuessli.ch)
- Pile of Books: [www.pileofbooks.ch](http://www.pileofbooks.ch)

Of general interest:

- Cabaret Voltaire, Zürich: [www.cabaretvoltaire.ch](http://www.cabaretvoltaire.ch)
- Literaturhaus, Zürich: [www.literaturhaus.ch](http://www.literaturhaus.ch)
- North American Native Museum, Zürich: [www.nonam.ch](http://www.nonam.ch)
- Phonogrammarchiv, UZH: [www.phonogrammarchiv.uzh.ch](http://www.phonogrammarchiv.uzh.ch)
- Robinson-Bibliothek im Kunst(Zeug)Haus, Rapperswil-Jona: [www.kunstzeughaus.ch](http://www.kunstzeughaus.ch)
- Sprachpanorama Laufenburg: [www.sprachpanorama.ch](http://www.sprachpanorama.ch)
- Swiss Centre of Irish Studies: [www.es.uzh.ch/scis-zjff](http://www.es.uzh.ch/scis-zjff)
- Strauhof, Zürich: [www.strauhof.ch](http://www.strauhof.ch)
- Zurich James Joyce Foundation: [www.joycefoundation.ch](http://www.joycefoundation.ch)