

## MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS (MAL)

### Programme Description

The importance of buttressing the study of languages with a linguistics base can never be overemphasised. Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It involves analysing the many different aspects that make up human language, such as its form, structure and context. Linguistics also looks at the interplay between sound and meaning, and how language varies between people and situations. Linguistics is the gateway to the informed analysis and description of languages as tools of human communication and, therefore, of the effort to understand cultural and societal issues and needs.

The programme examines the principles and theories of linguistic inquiry as well as their application to the major branches of linguistics, namely: Syntax, Morphology and Phonetics (i.e. Descriptive Linguistics); Sociolinguistics; Psycholinguistics; Applied Linguistics; Comparative and Contrastive Linguistics; Semantics; Lexicography; Translation and Interpretation; Pragmatics; et cetera. Other emerging areas in the study of Linguistics, such as: Gender Linguistics and African Linguistics are also incorporated. Students are further exposed to current issues in language planning and development (including language policy development).

This M.A. in Linguistics Programme is meant to be a focal theoretical linguistic base for all students pursuing Master's studies in any of the languages offered in the Institute of Language Studies: English, French, Kiswahili and Runyakitara. This will enable the Institute to start training its own cadre of qualified members of staff. All the core theoretical courses of the Programme will be taught in general classes while the language specific components will, if necessary, be dealt with in the individual language subjects.

The objective of the Programme is to train students to become skilled empirical linguists with a deep understanding of linguistic theory and its application. The specific objectives of this programme are:

- (i) To train high level linguists, focusing on both theoretical and practical aspects of the discipline of Linguistics.
- (ii) To equip students with the attitude and the ability to integrate linguistic knowledge and skills with knowledge and skills from other fields, thereby enabling them to manage complex societal issues.
- (iii) To provide language-specific knowledge that goes deeper into aspects of students' chosen areas of interest.
- (iv) To train a pool of linguists who will generate data through research into the national and regional language situation dynamics so as to inform policy.

## Overview

The programme shall run for a period of two academic years consisting of four semesters. Each semester will be made up of 17 weeks, of which two are for examinations. The first year will constitute attendance of courses, including crosscutting courses, and in the second year the students will write their master's thesis based on original research on a topic of their choice in their area of specialization.

## Entry Requirements

The University regulations and guidelines will apply with regard to application, registration, examinations, research and graduation. The common regulations for all Masters degrees in the University shall apply.

- a) The applicants should have at least a Second Class (Lower Division) in Bachelor of Arts (general) or Education with a bias in languages from Kabale University or any other institution recognized by the National Council for Higher Education.
- b) However, other equivalent qualifications may be considered for admission.
- c) For those who have a Pass degree, they should be able to demonstrate academic growth by some other means designed by the University.

There shall be three categories of enrolments as follows:

- 1) Full-Time Day enrolled students: who shall attend classes between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm from Monday to Friday.
- 2) Full-time Weekend enrolled students: who shall attend classes from Friday to Sunday.
- 3) Modular (Recess) programme - students who may wish to join shall attend classes for two years for coursework and a minimum one year for project.

## Fees Structure

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## Application & Selection

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## Course Details

YEAR ONE: SEMESTER ONE					
Course Code	Course Name	LH	PH	CH	CU
CORE UNITS					

MAL8101	Advanced Phonetics and Phonology	45	30	60	4
MAL8102	Advanced Morphology	60	-	60	4
MAL8103	Sociolinguistics	60	-	60	4
MAL8104	Research Methods	45	30	60	4
MAL8105	Lexicography and Terminology Development	60	-	60	4
<b>ELECTIVE UNITS (Choose One)</b>					
MAL8106	Onomastics	60	-	60	4
MAL8107	Language Policy Development	60	-	60	4
MAL8108	Comparative and Contrastive Studies	60	-	60	4
<b>Sub-total CU</b>		<b>330</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>YEAR ONE: SEMESTER TWO</b>					
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>LH</b>	<b>PH</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>CU</b>
<b>CORE UNITS</b>					
MAL8209	Advanced Syntax	60	-	60	4
MAL8210	Theory of Translation and Interpretation	45	30	60	4
MAL8211	Advanced Semantics and Pragmatics	60	-	60	4
MAL8212	Language and Gender Analysis	60	-	60	4
MAL8213	Applied Linguistics	60	-	60	4
<b>ELECTIVE UNITS (Choose one)</b>					
MAL8214	Discourse Analysis	60	-	60	4
MAL8215	Psycholinguistics	60	-	60	4
MAL8216	African Linguistics	60	-	60	4
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>345</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>YEAR TWO: SEMESTER ONE &amp; TWO</b>					
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>LH</b>	<b>PH</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>CU</b>
MAL8117	MA Thesis	360	-	360	<b>24</b>
<b>LH = Lecture Hours; PH = Practical Hours; FH = Field Hours; CH = Contact Hours; CU = Credit Units</b>					

### Career opportunities

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