

# LINGUISTICS: LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY, MASTER'S PROGRAMME ONE-YEAR DEGREE

MASTER OF ARTS WITH  
A MAJOR IN LINGUISTICS  
60 CREDITS



MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

**Do you have a background in linguistics or language studies? Do you want to learn more about how language shapes and maintains groups and societies? And do you want to use your skills to tackle societal issues? Then you should seriously consider the programme Language and Society.**

### **What makes Language and Society unique?**

Language and Society is unique since it combines an advanced study of language and its functions with an opportunity to use the tools from linguistics to learn more about fundamental issues such as the interaction between society, culture, and personal identity. We use the latest theories about language to investigate how our fundamental communicative tool (language) shapes not only our understanding of the world, but our interaction with it.

### **Content**

Language has a fundamental role in shaping and maintaining societies and cultures as well as identities and groups. It is also a tool for exerting power; by means of language, social relations, power relations and hierarchies are maintained, and conflicts are shaped.

The aim of the programme is to equip you with the skills necessary to tackle some of the challenges that modern societies are facing, through an awareness and knowledge of the

power of language, as well as critical analytical tools that can unravel ‘the veil of language’ and expose the structures that shape our thinking. Areas that can be focused on include, but are not limited to, issues of integration and minority/majority relations, media representations of different groups and events in society, power structures related to gender, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, to name but a few.

## **Programme structure**

### **Semester 1**

Language Evolution and Change 7.5 credits  
Language and Power 7.5 credits  
Linguistic and Cultural Semiotics 7.5 credits  
Methods in Linguistics 7.5 credits

### **Semester 2**

The Shaping Force of and in Language 7.5 credits  
Reading Course: Literature Review 7.5 credits  
Master's Thesis 15 credits



## Career opportunities

### What career will I be prepared for?

The list of areas where this kind of expertise is needed includes community building, conflict management, and anti-discrimination work. In addition, the skills gained through the programme are valuable within the media sector and within communications departments in the public and private sectors. The programme can also be a step towards future post-graduate studies.

Working professionals will participate in the programme, both in seminar presentations and as members of the programme council. This will facilitate interaction between students and professionals, providing opportunities for real-world projects in many areas as well as laying a foundation for future networks.

---

### Admission requirements

---

#### General eligibility for advanced level study

The equivalent of English B / English 6 in Swedish upper secondary school. A bachelor degree in Linguistics or in a language subject with a linguistic orientation (such as Swedish linguistics, English linguistics, French linguistics, Spanish linguistics, Russian linguistics, Japanese linguistics, etc.). The bachelor degree must include a written report of an independent research project of 15 hp, or equivalent, within the main field of study.

---

#### Degree

Master of Arts with a Major in Linguistics (60 credits)

More information about the program and applying  
[www.mah.se/languageandsociety](http://www.mah.se/languageandsociety)

---

*“Linguistics is like maths — you can use it for everything.”*

JEAN HUDSON, PROFESSOR,  
PHD ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

### **What is the programme about?**

“Language and Society deals with social phenomena, gender equality, the exercise of power, social exclusion and inclusion, rhetoric and advertising, and how we can better understand these issues through investigating linguistic phenomena. What is language for the individual and for our species? How are different groups in society construed? And how is language used to exert power?”

### **Why is this expertise needed?**

“In conflict resolution between, for example, majority and minority groups, knowledge in this area is highly beneficial. Another issue is gender equality. Language defines who we are and everything we do. It is about people and interaction.”

### **Why is Malmö University a good choice?**

“Our one-year master’s programme Language and Society offers an almost unique opportunity for graduates in linguistics to apply their knowledge and skills to multi-



“Our one-year master’s programme Language and Society offers an almost unique opportunity for graduates in linguistics to apply their knowledge and skills to multi-disciplinary issues. If you want to use language to help make a difference in society, then you should choose this programme.” Jean Hudson, Professor, PhD English Linguistics.

disciplinary issues. If you want to study and use language to help make a difference in society, then you should choose this programme. Our geographical location in the city of Malmö, with over 170 nationalities represented, offers an exciting research field. Also, more than 50 percent of our students are international, which means that our classrooms are truly multilingual and multicultural.”

### **What kind of job can I get?**

“If I had to name a few occupations for linguists with expertise in societal issues, the most obvious would be to

work with conflict resolution, for example, in NGOs, embassies or the UN, where you get to represent different ethnic groups or mediate between, for example, majority and minority groups. Gender equality is also being taken more seriously today, so at all levels of governance and education gender equality consultants are in demand. But the labour market for graduates of this programme extends to any area where there is a demand for people who are not only good communicators themselves, but who truly understand how language forms both people and societies.”