



## Prerequisites for the MA English Linguistics study program at the University of Stuttgart

This document clarifies the prerequisites for the MA English Linguistics study program, that is, the background that students are assumed to already have when entering the program.

### 1. Introduction to linguistics:

We expect you to have taken an introduction to linguistics that covers the core areas of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

### 2. First specializing course:

The English linguistics department at the University of Stuttgart offers MA English linguistics courses in phonology, syntax, semantics, and psycholinguistics. To take MA-level courses in phonology, syntax, or semantics, you are expected to have taken a specializing course in the relevant area that covers the following material:

#### Phonology

- Articulatory phonetics: Classification of English speech sounds, IPA transcription of English words, difference between letters and sounds
- Phonological theory: Phoneme, distinctive features, Derivational Phonology
- Suprasegmentals: Internal syllable structure, syllabification, word stress, basics of intonation

#### Syntax

- GB-theory and/or Minimalist Syntax: Binding, movement (in particular DP- and whmovement), control theory, theta theory, Case theory
- Ability to interpret and draw tree diagrams within these theories
- Apply the aforementioned theories and use them in syntactic argumentation

#### Semantics

- Compositional analyses of English expressions in a truth-conditional framework
- Analysis methods: Propositional logic, predicate logic, lambda calculus
- Empirical phenomena: Predication, reference, modification, quantifiers, tense/aspect/modality; Content types: entailments, presuppositions, Gricean analysis of conversational implicatures

To take an MA-level course in psycholinguistics, you are expected to have taken a specializing course in at least one of these three areas.

### 3. Second specializing course:

You are expected to have taken i) a second specializing course in one of the three areas above, or ii) an advanced course in the area of the first specializing course that covers a specific topic in detail and as part of which you have read original research articles.

To do well in our MA English Linguistics study program, you will have ideally taken at least three specializing courses (not just the required two), **and** you will have already written a term paper or a BA thesis in one of the four areas mentioned above.

### Important:

You may only participate in MA English Linguistics courses for which you satisfy the prerequisites. For example, to participate in an MA-level course in semantics, you must have the aforementioned prerequisites for semantics.