

Center for the Study of Language and Society

MA in Sociolinguistics



The only degree program in Switzerland devoted exclusively to sociolinguistics.

Focused on the intersection of language and society, the interdisciplinary MA program explores how social structures influence language and language use, how social beliefs and ideologies are reproduced and transmitted through language, and how beliefs about language and language users perpetuate social inequalities. Through diverse coursework and practical research experience, students learn about the crucial role that language plays in social life.

www.csls.unibe.ch

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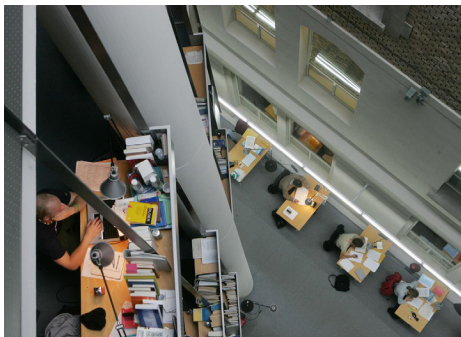


Program Structure

The MA in Sociolinguistics is designed to be completed in 4 semesters (full-time). Part-time study is also possible. The program can be started in the fall (September) or the spring (February).

Students have the option to follow one of three programs:

1. Sociolinguistics Mono (120 ECTS),
2. Sociolinguistics Major (90 ECTS),
3. Sociolinguistics Minor (30 ECTS).



Required Courses

All students complete the following required courses:

- Approaching Language and Society
- Qualitative Methods in Sociolinguistics
- Quantitative Methods in Sociolinguistics

Students in the Mono and Major programs also complete the MA Colloquium in their final semester.

Required courses are designed to provide students with advanced, cutting-edge training in current concepts, methods and tools in sociolinguistics, and to prepare students for writing a sociolinguistics dissertation (Mono and Major students only).

While each course is devoted to a specific subject area, together they enable students to acquire necessary skills in an interdisciplinary environment.

Optional Courses

In addition to required courses, students gain credits from electives in the areas of **Sociolinguistic Theories**, **Sociolinguistic Methods**, and **Special Topics in Sociolinguistics**. Recent electives include:

- Language and Sexism
- Language, Ethnicity and Race
- Intercultural Communication
- Language, Style and Identity
- Media Linguistics
- Populist Discourses
- Language Policy and Planning
- Language and Gentrification
- Language Variation and Change
- Speech Perception and Attitudes

Both required and optional modules are delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, colloquia and practical exercises.

Partner Institutes

In addition to courses offered by the CSLS, students can also choose available courses from the CSLS partner institutes:

Institute of English
Institute of French
Institute of German
Institute of Italian
Institute of Slavic Languages
Institute of Spanish
Institute of Linguistics
Institute of Social Anthropology

Assessment

A wide range of assessment techniques is used, tailored to the learning outcomes of each course. These include: poster presentations, exercises, literature reviews, and extended written analyses of data. Depending on their programs, students must also write a certain number of full-length seminar papers over the course of the degree.

Mono and Major students also write a 80-100 page dissertation. For the dissertation, students work with a supervisor to conduct original research on a sociolinguistic topic of their choice. The dissertation is normally written in the final semester of the program.

Research Internships

In addition to regular coursework, students have the opportunity to gain research experience with a Research Internship at the CSLS or in one of our affiliated departments. With this optional module, students can earn 3-5 ECTS as a Research Assistant, conducting research in one of the many ongoing research projects in the departments.





Career Opportunities

The MA program provides excellent preparation for students interested in pursuing an academic career in sociolinguistics. It also prepares students for careers in other areas where language and linguistics play an important role, including:

- teaching and education,
- publishing,
- marketing and communications,
- branding and advertising,
- copywriting,
- language-related public policy and planning.

Entry Requirements

An undergraduate degree in languages/ linguistics, sociology, psychology, social anthropology or communication and media studies. Other qualifications may also be suitable and will be assessed on an individual basis. For further details and information on how to apply, please see the CSLS website.

Languages of Instruction

Required courses are taught in English. Other languages of instruction include German, French, Italian, and Spanish. The main working language of the University of Bern is German, so some familiarity with German is desirable.

Further Information

Visit our website: www.csls.unibe.ch

Or contact:

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