

## Research Methods in SLA and Language Learning (A005092)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits** 6.0                      **Study time** 180 h

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)                      English                      Gent                      integration seminar                      20.0 h

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Montero Perez, Maribel                      LW06                      lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject African Languages and Cultures)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Applied Language Studies)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject East European Languages and Cultures)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Cognitive and Functional Linguistics)</a>	6	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective)</a>	6	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Multilingual and Foreign Language Learning and Teaching)</a>	6	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Natural Language Processing: Theory and Practice)</a>	6	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (abridged programme)</a>	6	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

research methods, research design, second language acquisition

**Position of the course**

This course unit is part of the advanced master in linguistics (ManaMa Linguistics). It is also an optional course in the master of teaching (educatieve master).

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

**Contents**

This course consists of different **modules**.

- Writing a research report & conducting a literature review
- Data collection measures for second language acquisition (SLA), language teaching and language learning research
- Designing a quantitative study
- Designing a qualitative study; mixed-methods research
- Corpus-based research methods and learner corpora in SLA research

• Sensitive measures in research on language learning: eye-tracking, reaction times and EEG  
Each module consists of theory, analyses of recently published research, exercises and group discussions.

The module "sensitive measures in research on language learning" is optional for students in the **master of teaching (educatieve master)**. They are not expected to fulfill the assignment that belongs to this module.

(They follow this course for 5 ECTS-credits instead of 6.)

### **Initial competences**

null

### **Final competences**

- 1 Distinguish between different types of studies, designs and data collection measures in research on SLA.
- 2 Formulate research questions in the field of second/foreign language acquisition.
- 3 Understand challenges and ethical aspects involved in data collection
- 4 Select appropriate quantitative data collection techniques in function of a research question in the field of SLA.
- 5 Select appropriate qualitative data collection techniques in function of a research question in the field of SLA.
- 6 Design a study (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods) on topics in SLA.
- 7 Know the structure of a research report.
- 8 Being able to justify and evaluate research methods in terms of adequacy and limitations.

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, peer teaching, independent work

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Students follow lectures and prepare assignments in Ufora. Learning modules are available which consist of theory and assignments. Learners receive feedback during interactive sessions.

Students prepare exercises in class (individually or in small groups) and present the results. Students prepare a short presentation on a selected article.

Students can take online quizzes in Ufora (with immediate feedback in Ufora).

### **Learning materials and price**

The learning materials and corresponding exercises are available via the online learning platform (presentations, activities, reader).

### **References**

We will use chapters from (a.o.):

- Baarda et al. (2017). Basisboek methoden en technieken. Kwantitatief praktijkgericht onderzoek op wetenschappelijke basis. Noordhoff Uitgevers.

- Mackey, A. & Gass, S. (2016). Second language Research. Methodology and design. New York: Routledge.

- McKinley, J. & Rose, H. (2019). The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in Applied Linguistics. London: Routledge.

We will also use recently published SLA research.

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive support through Ufora and during the sessions, individual feedback in the sessions, by appointment or via email

### **Evaluation methods**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period**

Oral assessment open-book

### **Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period**

Oral assessment open-book

**Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation**

Participation, assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Continuous assessment based on participation in the response lecture (preparing assignments, input, attendance) and oral assessment (open book) based on exercises.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

- Continuous assessment: 30 % assignment and participation (presence in class is therefore highly recommended)
- Oral presentation: 10%
- Exam: 60%

**Facilities for Working Students**

- Mogelijkheid tot vrijstelling van aanwezigheid voor bepaalde onderdelen met vervangende opdrachten. Voor een aantal lesmomenten is aanwezigheid vereist.