

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 in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

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LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Applied Language Studies)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject East European Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (abridged programme)	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.

Initial competences

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, Independent work, Peer teaching

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).

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Ufora course and reader of the course "Research methods in SLA and language learning"

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

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.

All course materials will be available on Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

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

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment open-book

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment open-book

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

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)
- Exam: 70%

Facilities for Working Students

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