



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LINB23, Linguistics: Diversity of the World's Languages, 7.5 credits

Lingvistik: Världens språk, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2021-12-15 and was last revised on 2026-03-02 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/82). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. The course can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Linguistics G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the main language families of the world, where they are found and their typical features
- account for the typical features of languages in different parts of the world
- explain the meaning of language relationships, what they are and how to recognise them

Competence and skills

- explain and apply the fundamental principles of language typology
- account for the interaction between different grammatical structures
- carry out an interview survey with an informant
- make grammatical generalisations based on limited examples of language
- distinguish between typologically common and unusual phenomena
- based on structural and sociological facts, geographically or genetically situate a language in the world

Judgement and approach

- discuss and reflect on the role of their own native language in a global context

Course content

The course provides an overview of the languages of the world, to which families they belong and where they are spoken. It also covers elements that are common to all human languages and in what manner languages differ from each other, for example, in grammar and sound systems. Similarities between languages are also discussed, which can be a result of being genealogically related, of borrowing from another language or because of universals that are linked to how languages work as a means of human communication. Great emphasis is placed on an individual or group project for which the student, on the basis of an interview survey and/or recording, analyses a language previously unfamiliar to them.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures and exercises.

Assessment

The assessment is based on a compulsory analytical assignment and a take-home exam.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

The grades awarded for the analytical assignment are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass on the whole course, students must have been awarded at least this grade on both the analytical assignment and the take-home exam. For a grade of Pass with Distinction, the students must have been awarded this grade on the take-home exam.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have successfully completed 3 credits, equivalent to the intended course learning outcomes 1/exam 3 in LINB21 or LINB24, or 60 credits in a language subject, or the equivalent.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course replaces LINB13.
- The course content partially overlaps with SASH26 and LINB22.
- The course is included as a module in LINA15.
- The course coincides with the two last modules of LINB41.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.