Stockholm University

Advanced-level Degree Projects in English Linguistics
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1. Types of advanced-level Degree Projects

Different groups of students write their *advanced-level degree projects* (or *thesis projects*, *theses*) at our Department:

Course code	Course name & module	Programme	Credits	Text label
EN0379	*English III for teaching at Secondary Schools*, Module 3	Teacher Education	15	Degree project
EN04GY	*English IV for teaching at Upper Secondary Schools*, Module 3		15	Degree project
ENLIN5	*Master's Thesis in English Linguistics*	Master's Programme in Language Science with a Specialisation in (Applied) English Linguistics	15	Magister thesis
ENLIN3	*Master's Thesis in English Linguistics*		30	Master's/MA thesis

Information on the differences between the degree projects (DPs) in terms of which seminars should be attended, topic, length, and similar, can be found in the sections below.

2. Advanced-level Degree Project supervision and seminars

The Advanced-level DP Linguistics module consists of individual supervision and a seminar series. At the beginning of the term a supervisor is assigned to you, who will help you in the thesis writing process throughout the term. Contact your supervisor by sending them an email, and be in touch with the supervisor throughout the term, as they are there to help you and offer their expertise. Students writing a 15-credit thesis are entitled to 20 hours of supervision, while those writing a 30-credit thesis can receive 30 hours of supervision. Note that supervision time includes all work with your supervisor (reading emails and drafts, meetings, etc.), and that you are entitled to this time only the term you have been first assigned a supervisor. In other words, *if you do not finish your thesis on time (i.e. in one term), you are not guaranteed supervision the following term*.

During the term you will also be attending seminars. While DP writers in teacher education programmes attend all seminars (writing academic English for degree projects, method seminars, discussion/presentation/feedback sessions), students in the MA programmes attend only the seminars where projects are discussed, presented, or where feedback is given. To see which seminars you should attend and what content those seminars cover, please read the document "Seminar_series_description" labelled with the relevant course code. The document can be found on Athena: Plans > General information & thesis writing resources > Essential module information. There you can also find the schedule for the seminars.

3. Key dates for VT2025

7 February	Submit a project proposal
24 February	*Teacher education students only: Submit introduction for the writing seminar series*
18 March	Show and tell meeting
2 April	Post an abstract for the mini-conference
7 April	Mini-conference
24 April	Submit first full draft
30 April	Draft peer review session
18 May, 23:59	**Upload final version of the thesis to Athena**
4, 5 & 9 June	**Thesis defence seminars**

Please read the rest of the document carefully for the description of each of these milestones.

After consultation with your supervisor, you should compose a **project proposal**, using the form available on Athena (see Plans > Proposals). The proposal should then be posted on Athena by the deadline specified above. Please note that any document you upload on Athena must be labelled as follows: "[Your last name] [Your first name] [title of the document]". You will receive feedback on your proposals (through your supervisors) by the group of teachers involved in the course.

Only teacher education students need to submit the **introduction** for the writing seminar series. For more information about this draft, see the "Seminar_series_description" labelled with the relevant course code.

About a third way through the term we will have a **Show and tell meeting** where we will meet to discuss progress. You should bring any drafts or data you have.

In the mini-conference, each student presents their project work in progress. Before the mini-conference you should post an **abstract** for the mini-conference. The abstract should be 300 to 700 words long, outlining the project and the findings so far. Do not forget to include your name and the title of your project. A few days later, we will have a **mini-conference**, where each student will present their project and receive feedback from the audience. 10 minutes will be spent on each 15-credit degree project (5 min presentation and 5 min for questions and feedback), while 15 minutes will be spent on each 30-credit degree project (7.5 min presentation and 7.5 min for questions and feedback).

Towards the end of the term (see the deadline above), you should hand in a **first (complete) draft** on Athena. The thesis draft should be as complete as possible. About a week later we will meet to discuss each other's drafts. You will be asked to read and prepare constructive feedback on a peer's draft **before our meeting**.

The deadline for the final version of the thesis (i.e. the thesis that will be examined) is specified above. Late submissions will not be accepted. The defence seminar will be held in the last week of term.

4. Length and form of an advanced-level Degree Project

An advanced-level degree project in English linguistics should be related to English language and linguistics. For the students in the teacher education programme, it should also have relevance to English language teaching and pedagogy (see Guidelines_for_writing_the_DP in Plans > General information & thesis writing resources > Essential module information, for some tips on how to write a thesis of this kind).

A 15-credit thesis should be between 8,000-10,000 words long, while the MA thesis should be between 15,000 and 20,000 words long (excluding the abstract, works cited and material in the Appendix). The thesis should contain an abstract with keywords (max. 300 words), placed after the title page but before the table of contents.

The **template** found on Athena (Plans > General information & thesis writing resources > Thesis templates) should be used for the thesis. To cite sources, the **APA system for references** (see Thesis templates) should be used. When submitting the thesis for examination, submit it as a **Word document** (.doc/.docx). Only if you use a special font (e.g., for phonetic or phonological symbols) can you post the final thesis in pdf format.

5. Submitting an advanced-level Degree Project for a defence seminar

All advanced-level degree projects in English linguistics are discussed in a joint defence seminar, where thesis writers, supervisors, examiners and other interested teachers and students participate. The regular **defence seminar** will be in the last week of term. Times will be announced a week before the seminar. Please keep all those days free.

Before deciding to submit your thesis for discussion and grading in a defence seminar, you should consult your supervisor. The submitted thesis version is regarded as the final one, and, provided that you receive a passing grade, you will only be permitted to make minor changes after the defence seminar. This means that before submission, the thesis must be thoroughly worked through in all respects, and meticulously proofread.

The advanced-level degree projects that are to be discussed at a defence seminar should be submitted on Athena by the deadline specified in Section 3. Once a thesis has been posted on Athena, it cannot be replaced by a new version. If you want to correct something in the submitted version, you can hand in an errata list (i.e. a list of the errors and corrections) at the defence seminar. You can find the template for the errata list on Athena (Plans > General information & thesis writing resources > Thesis templates).

The programme for a defence seminar is published on Athena a week before the seminar, and contains information about times for specific thesis project defences, opponents, and examiners.

6. Examination and grades

The advanced-level degree projects will be graded on a scale from A to F, where A is the highest grade and F is a Fail. Grades are given in relation to a set of learning outcomes. The grading criteria and guidelines for advanced-level degree projects are available on Athena (Plans > General information & thesis writing resources > Essential module information).

A thesis may be referred back to the student for further work. Should this happen, you will receive instructions from the examiner. The resubmitted project will be graded by the same examiner, if possible. A referred thesis must be resubmitted by the date given. If a submitted degree project receives a Fail grade (Fx/F), no further supervision will be made available for the completion of this thesis.

7. The procedure at a defence seminar

If you have submitted a degree project for a defence seminar, **you are expected to participate in the whole seminar**.

At the seminar, each 15-credit degree project defence is allotted 35 minutes, and each 30-credit degree project 50 minutes. The opponent is another advanced-level project writer who, if possible, has worked with another supervisor. The defence is structured thus:

I. The first part includes the opponent and the writer (15 min for a 15-credit thesis, 20 min for an MA thesis). The opponent first summarises the thesis (max. 7 min), after which s/he asks questions and gives comments on it. The respondent is given the opportunity to answer and explain specific points of interest. It is important that the summary and the following discussion are kept separate. A natural and conventional way of signalling that the summary is concluded is to ask the project writer whether s/he thinks that it adequately covered the general contents of the thesis, or whether s/he would like to add or clarify something. The opponent should try to focus on central matters concerning the research questions and the results, including the theoretical framework, the material, and the methodology used. There may also be reason to say something about the language and formal aspects such as the layout and the presentation of examples and tables.

II. During the second part (15 min for a 15-credit thesis, 25 min for an MA thesis), the examiner asks questions and comments on the project.

III. Finally, there are a few minutes for questions and contributions from the floor (5 min).

When there is only one student defending their thesis, the defence structure is as follows:

I. Instead of acting as an opponent on another student's thesis, the thesis writer will be given an old student thesis to read, which they will critically summarise and evaluate.

II. When it comes to the student's own thesis, a PhD student will act as an opponent instead of another student. If a PhD student is not available, additional time will instead be given to the examiner.

III. The rest of the defence follows the regular format.

8. Receiving the grade and filing the thesis

After the defence seminar, the examiner sets the grade. You will be informed individually about your grade by the coordinator. Within one week you will receive the examiner's report on your grade together with any requests for minor revisions. You have another week to complete these corrections.

If an advanced-level degree project receives a pass grade (A to E) the examiner will check that any required final corrections are made in the thesis. After the last corrections have been made and the examiner has approved of them, the thesis writer should email the final version in standard pdf format to the examiner for electronic filing. This should be done within two weeks of the defence seminar.

When your final version of the degree project has been approved, you are asked to publish the abstract in the DiVA database (Digitala vetenskapliga arkivet). The department also recommends that any student whose degree project receives an A or a B grade publish their degree project in DiVA in toto. You will receive instructions for submitting the abstract (and the full degree project) to DiVA after the degree project has been approved.

NB: If your thesis includes images from social media or **any** other **images for which you do not hold the copy-right**, you need to **remove those images** and instead provide the URLs before you upload your thesis on DiVA.