Writing the BA thesis

BA TOPIC FAIR
4 SEPTEMBER 2020
Formal requirements

A research paper written under the supervision of a member of the Department of English Studies

6 ETCS points

Length: 25-30 pages (without appendices)

Topic areas:
- language studies (aspects of the English language, contrasts with Estonian)
- literary studies (literatures written in English, translation to and from English)
- cultural studies (cultures of the English-speaking countries)

For detailed requirements see
- Anglistika osakonna bakalaureusetööde nõuded
- BA Theses Guidelines.
What is expected?

An undergraduate thesis is expected to be a **coherent, literate, intensive analysis of a challenging topic or problem**.

It tackles a problem that others have not yet addressed adequately, or it approaches the problem from a new angle.

- It needs not make an original contribution to knowledge on the subject (though it may do so).

You should have an acquaintance with the relevant scholarship and display originality in the formulation of your arguments.

- Research into what others have said and done is the essential first step (**literature review**), but your thesis should go beyond prior work to include your own insights and critical thinking.
Timeline

Topics agreed on with supervisors and entered into the relevant table – 31 October

Topics approved and supervisors formally appointed – 30 November

Detailed outline and/or first draft of a section (whichever has been agreed on with the supervisor) – 10 February

Thesis draft ready to be shared with the reviewer – 27 April

Reviewer’s comments and suggestions – 4 May

Final version handed in for the defence – 25 May

Public defence of the theses – 1 & 2 June (tentative, check!)
Help available

The course *Ingliskeelsete uurimistööde kirjutamine/ Writing up Research in English* (HVLC.01.066)

Replaces the course *Akadeemiliste tekstide kirjutamine / Academic Writing* (FLGR.01.159)

Departmental website: [Lõputööde nõuded ja juhendid](#)

Bakalaureusetööd

Your supervisor!
Language studies
Lecturer Jane Klavan, PhD

Areas of interest:
1. Learner Corpus Research
2. Grammatical and lexical variation
3. Digital humanities
4. Statistical modelling of linguistic data

A list of more specific topics and previously supervised theses can be found at: https://sisu.ut.ee/janeklavan/supervision
Lecturer Reeli Torn-Leesik, PhD

1. Studies on grammatical aspects of English:
   o contrastive analysis of a grammatical aspect of English and of another language (e.g. aspect in English and Estonian)
   o studies based on the Tartu Corpus of Estonian Learner English
   o translation based studies (case studies)

2. Studies on English phonetics:
   o realisation of English sounds (e.g. plosives, dental fricatives, vowels) by Estonian learners of English
   o English intonation in the speech of L2 learners
   o varieties of English
Lecturer Reeli Torn-Leesik, PhD

3. Language of sports commentaries

4. Studies on English lexicon (e.g. idioms and idiomatic expressions, collocations, etc.)
Lecturer Djuddah Leijen, PhD

1. Rhetoric and composition
2. English composition
3. Academic writing (L2 writing)
4. Contrastive rhetoric
5. Register, genre and style
6. Rhetorical analysis
1. Oral narratives and Labovian story grammar
2. Narrative tenses in (oral) narratives
Literary and culture studies
Prof Raili Marling, PhD

1. American literature (canonical authors, contemporary literary fiction)
2. Literary representations of pandemics, economic or ecological crises
3. Media representations of crises
4. Representations of gender (e.g., in literature, public discourse)
1. Literary translation
Contextualised comparative analysis of (a part of) a translation from Engl. into Est. or Est. into Engl. with a focus on a specific topic, E.g.:

2. Poetry translation
3. Theatre translation
4. Transmedial translation
Lecturer Pilvi Rajamäe, PhD

1. Authors, themes from British literature
   ◦ Focus on ONE specific aspect in ONE literary text

2. Topics from the elective courses:
   ◦ Visions of Empire: The British Empire and the Arts
   ◦ Life in the English Country House
Assistant Lecturer Eva Rein, MA

**Thesis supervision area:**
- Canadian Literature

**Possible authors, texts, themes and approaches:**

1. can be picked from the materials of the courses
   - “English-Canadian Multicultural Writing” (all the themes, issues and approaches addressed in the course; full texts of the extracts of the novels)
   - “Margaret Atwood: Texts, Contexts and Intertexts”
   - “Photography in Literature” (also other aspects besides photography can be explored in the course texts; full texts of the extracts of the novels)
   - “Personal and National Identity in English-Canadian Novel”
   - “Canadian Prairie Novel”

2. can be picked from the Canadian authors’ works you have had on your Text Analysis home reading list at the oral exam
Assistant Lecturer Ülle Türk, MA

British and Irish culture

◦ Research into various aspects of life and politics in the two countries based on the data available online
◦ Representation of various aspects of culture in the media, fiction and film