



Merkblatt: MA Sprache und Kommunikation Sprache (University of Basel) Guidelines for the Research Internship

Aim of the Research Internship:

The goal of the research internship within the MA Sprache und Kommunikation is to provide you with intensive training experience in conducting research in linguistics in the context of an ongoing research project. You will be familiarized with the most important components of empirical research in that project, from the identification of suitable research questions and their theoretical motivation, to issues of operationalization (project design and execution; analyzing, evaluating, and reporting results).

General requirements for an internship ([MA Study regulation](#)):

allgemein in der Studienordnung:

Praktikumsberichte

§19. Die Leistungsüberprüfung von individuellen Praktika erfolgt durch Praktikumsberichte.

² Praktika finden in staatlichen oder privaten Institutionen statt. Nach Rücksprache mit der betreffenden Institution und den Studierenden legen die verantwortlichen Dozierenden Art und Dauer des Praktikums sowie Inhalt und Umfang des Praktikumsberichtes in einem Learning Contract schriftlich fest, der von der für das jeweilige Studienfach bzw. den jeweiligen Studiengang zuständigen Unterrichtskommission bewilligt wird.

³ Praktikumsberichte werden durch die zuständige Dozentin bzw. den zuständigen Dozenten bewertet.

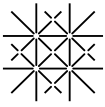
Requirements specific to the research internship in the MA "Sprache und Kommunikation":

The workload for the internship is 5 KP = 150 hours.

The research internship enables students to solidify and integrate their theoretical knowledge and methodological skills. It should be an activity that deals intensively with a field of linguistic research, typically within an ongoing research project of the supervisor of the internship and his/her team, in which the interns can also make their own contribution.

During the internship, the students will:

- read up on the content of the project in detail,
- understand the objectives of the project and the choice of procedure,
- reflect on whether the whole procedure is/was suitable (e.g. data collection, evaluation strategies, etc.), or propose alternative and additional approaches (with the help of current bibliography on the subject),
- be involved in designing the analyses, or analyze a part of the data independently, if possible. After being trained in coding and analysis, the students should be able to work on a subset of data on their own.
- think about additional or alternative research questions on the basis of their work.



The details depend on the nature of the project you work in, and will be formalized in a **Learning Contract**.

The learning contract is fixed between the intern and the supervisor, who must be a regular employee of the University of Basel and must hold a PhD in Linguistic.

- The Learning Contract is fixed in advance.
- The workload of the internship is 5 KP, i.e. 150 working hours.
- It is possible to do a second 5 KP internship within the module *Forschungspraxis und Vertiefung*.
- The Learning Contract specifies a date by which the internship has to be completed, but an extension is possible. It is recommended to discuss and fix a more detailed time schedule in addition. The schedule depends on the availability of the student on the one hand, and on the temporal dynamics of the research project on the other. Intern and supervisor should discuss when the intern needs to be finished with their work, and whether the intern's availability during the term or the term break matches the timely demands of the research project. Since research projects sometimes suffer delays, especially when new data have to be collected, it is recommended to agree on a generous rather than overly tight time frame.
- Internships in research projects outside the University of Basel are only possible in exceptional cases, and only if there is an ongoing cooperation with one of the possible supervisors at the University of Basel.
- A list of internships offered is available from the coordinator of the MA program, but you can also approach supervisors of your choice regarding a possible internship project. Please also contact your supervisor or coordinator for all remaining questions. It is essential that there is an agreement on the expectations and the time frame, but keep in mind that doing research is not always completely predictable. Adapting flexibly to a project's needs and necessary changes of direction is also part of your research skills.

As stated above, the purpose of the internship is to gain first-hand experience in research projects, and reflect upon their scientific and methodological setup. This means that internships that exclusively or predominantly consist of the execution of set activities or organizational and administrative tasks like conference organization and participant recruitment, do not fall into the category of a research internship. The workload of 150 hours includes reading up on the project, and reflecting upon it in a research report, as well as participating in the research group's activities like group meetings, colloquia or workshops.

- The internship can lead to a seminar paper or an MA-thesis, but this involves an additional workload corresponding to the KPs assigned (5 KP or 30KP, respectively)
- The assessment (*Leistungsüberprüfung*) of the research internship is a report (*Praktikumsbericht*) to be submitted to the supervisor at the agreed upon point in time (see Learning Contract, and below).

Requirements for the internship report

Length: approx. 3000 words



Contents:

- A list of your activities and the hours spent on the different components. Please provide information on the following aspects (a mere enumeration of your activities is not enough):
- A theoretical reflection on the contents (Scientific aim(s) of the activities? What did you learn? How is the internship useful for your future development? Additional or alternative approaches you would find useful? etc.)
- A sample analysis of the data, with a focus on your own ideas and contributions, if applicable
- Please use formal, academic language and adhere to the formal criteria for research reports / term papers.
- Additional or alternative requirements are to be discussed directly with the supervisors, and should be specified in the Learning Contract.

Structure:

- Front page
- Abstract or summary (250 words)
- Table of contents
- Introduction
- Goals, theory, methodology (theoretical approach and procedure)
 - of the overall project
 - in your internship (presentation of your own activity and its embedding within the overall aims of the project)
- Results
- Discussion (theoretical reflection in relation to one's own activity within the project)
- Development and application of an independent research question to the data
- Conclusions and outlook
- References
- Appendix (if applicable)



Appendix 1: Model: Timetable Research Internship

Timetable Research Internship XY

| Period of Time | Activities | Effort |
|----------------|---|--------|
| | – introduction – introductory reading – ... | X h |
| | – data work/preparation of data | Y h |
| | – ... | Z h |
| | – write and edit internship report | Q h |

Supervisor(s) of Internship:

Duration of Internship:

Place of Internship:

Place, Date, Signature

Please send the report to the coordinator at suk@unibas.ch as well as to your supervisor (as PDF).

The evaluation is carried out by the supervisor, as specified in the Learning Contract.

If you have any questions about the internship, please contact the Coordinator of the MA-program at suk@unibas.ch.