MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS AND LITERARY STUDIES
MULTILINGUAL MASTER
www.vub.ac.be/en/multilingual-master
60 credits

Become a linguist, literature specialist, translator or interpreter in the multilingual capital of Europe
VUB education delivers strong individuals, critical minds & world citizens

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) offers high-quality English-taught programmes, supported by outstanding research. Being a student at VUB means learning in an open atmosphere of tolerance and diversity and growing into an independent and critical-thinking individual.

All fields of study are offered on 3 student-friendly campuses in the cosmopolitan city of Brussels. At the VUB, students have easy access to their lecturers and assistants. Faculty members are available and open to answer questions; small group workshops are used to ensure close interaction and hands-on experience.

VUB is a dynamic and modern university with almost two centuries of history. There are 14000 students, 20% of which are international students from more than 120 different countries.

The basis of our academic success

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel was founded on the principle of ‘free inquiry’ as formulated by the French mathematician and philosopher of science Henri Poincaré (1854-1912):

‘Thinking must never submit itself, neither to a dogma, nor to a party, nor to a passion, nor to an interest, nor to a preconceived idea, nor to anything whatsoever, except to the facts themselves, because for it to submit to anything else would be the end of its existence.’

Personal growth, with a positive and critical attitude, in addition to a sense of responsibility and open-mindedness, these are characteristics that you will encounter in everyone at the university: from professors and researchers to students and staff members. It lies at the heart of our academic success.

“The university’s personalised approach really appealed to me. I was able to speak to a member of staff who gave information about the programme. At the VUB the distance between students and staff is small. I am very much interested in language. I love reading, but I am also fascinated by the technical aspects of a language. The programme certainly met with expectations.”

Michaela Beck (Sweden)
Student Linguistics and Literary Studies (German & English)
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literary Studies

Studying linguistics and/or literature, translation or interpreting in the stimulating multilingual and urban environment of Brussels gives you the opportunity to put theory into practice and experience the diverse aspects of multilingualism. The Linguistics and Literary Studies Master’s programme, the first of its kind in Flanders, is designed to prepare you for the globalised labour market where multilingualism and international expertise are increasingly important.

Our one-year Master’s programme offers courses in linguistics, literature, translation and interpreting in eleven different languages. You can choose to specialise in one or two languages and in one language-related scientific discipline, such as Linguistics, Literary Studies, Psycholinguistics & Neurolinguistics, Multilingualism & Foreign Language Acquisition, Theatre Studies, Translation Studies and Interpreting Studies. Study in the unique multilingual setting of the capital of Europe and become a multilingual professional!
7 profiles, 11 languages
Our master programme offers seven profiles – each profile featuring a specific set of courses – that allow you to specialise in different language-related domains. The languages Dutch, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish are offered in the following profiles:

**Linguistics**
The Linguistics profile provides an in-depth exploration of language with courses in up to six languages. This profile covers a broad range of linguistic topics, such as theoretical linguistics, (historical) sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics.

**Literary Studies**
The Literary Studies profile provides an in-depth exploration of literature in the aforementioned six languages. You will explore current literary topics and fields, such as urban literature, postcolonial literature, the intermedial relationship between literature and other art forms, literature and (national) identity, and aspects of literary translation.

**Multilingualism and Foreign Language Acquisition**
This profile provides an in-depth exploration of multilingualism, both from social and cognitive perspectives. It explores the role of instructed versus uninstructed foreign language learning in a multilingual environment. Students who choose this profile are given the opportunity to complete an internship during which they are immersed in multilingual theory and practice.

**Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics**
If you are fascinated by the neurological and psychological aspects of language, this profile is perfect for you. Language impairments caused by brain damage and the cognitive aspects of multilingualism are examples of topics you will examine if you choose this profile.

**Theatre Studies**
Interested in analysing theatre, dance and performance? The Theatre Studies profile offers an academic approach to theatre and film studies. The languages Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish are offered in the following profiles:

**Interpreting**
The Interpreting profile offers a well-balanced set of advanced theoretical and practical courses that allow you to build up your academic and professional skills in the field of interpreting.

**Translation**
If you choose the translation profile, you will learn what it takes to become a professional translator. Theoretical and practical courses will help you develop your academic and professional skills.

3 research centres
Our Master’s programme offers you the possibility to conduct independent and creative research in a stimulating multilingual and urban environment. Your research activities will be supervised by an internationally renowned expert in his or her field. The Faculty of Arts and Philosophy hosts three research centres that are specialised in studies dealing with language-related research topics:

The **Brussels Institute for Applied Linguistics (BIAL)** conducts applied linguistic research with a focus on transculturalism – i.e. a form of cultural hybridity which emerges when different cultural elements interact and eventually integrate with each other. BIAL approaches this overarching research theme from the perspectives of translation and interpreting, foreign language acquisition and multilingualism, special language studies and language practices.

The **Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings (CLIC)** offers an interdisciplinary forum for specialists in literary, theatre and performance studies. It stimulates research across traditional boundaries and along three key concepts: media, genres and spaces. Recent work and conferences have addressed topics such as intermediality, intertextuality, adaptations, literary theory, music and literature, life writing, postcolonial rewritings of the Western canon and historiography, literature and philosophy, literary translation, Brussels in literature, etc.

The main objective of the **Centre for Linguistics (CLIN)** is to promote research in theoretical and applied linguistics and the wider application of this research in the society. CLIN addresses a broad spectrum of issues related to the structure, use, learning and teaching, historical development, and the social and political contexts of languages. Recent work includes studies on morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, dialectology, sociolinguistics, socio-historical linguistics, bilingualism and bilingual education, sign language, aphasia, second language acquisition, and methodology and practice in language teaching.
Option 1:
Linguistics, Literary Studies, Psycholinguistics & Neurolinguistics, Multilingualism & Foreign Language Acquisition and Theatre Studies

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<tr>
<th>Obligatory courses</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s thesis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Methodology Linguistics OR Research Methodology Literary Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Option 1: one language + profile
- Language-specific elective courses
- Profile-specific elective courses

Option 2: two languages + profile
- Language-specific elective courses: language 1
- Language-specific elective courses: language 2
- Profile-specific elective courses

Option 2:
Interpreting and Translation

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<thead>
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<th>Obligatory courses</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s thesis</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation Studies and Research Methodology (*) OR Interpreting Studies and Research Methodology (**)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Language and Terminology (***)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercultural Communication (**)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation Office Simulation (<em>) OR Community Interpreting (</em>**)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work placement (***)</td>
<td>12</td>
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Translation workshop (from English into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish or Turkish and vice versa) (*) OR Interpreting workshop (from English into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish or Turkish and vice versa) (**)

Specialisation courses (two courses need to be chosen from this list)
- Audiovisual translation (***) | 3 |
- Language technology (*) | 3 |
- Software localisation (*) | 3 |
- Text and discourse analysis (***) | 3 |
- Theory of literary translation (*) | 3 |

Total 60

The programme is subject to changes. Check [www.vub.ac.be/en](http://www.vub.ac.be/en) for the latest information about the programme.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System):
1 credit stands for 25-30 hours of study activity.

(*) only offered in the translation programme
(**) only offered in the interpreting programme
(***) offered in both programmes
Study in a multilingual environment

Located in Brussels, the VUB offers students the unique opportunity to study in a multilingual environment. Studying linguistics, literature, interpreting or translation in Brussels allows you to immediately put theory into practice and to personally experience the diverse aspects of multilingualism and multiculturalism. Professionals with an excellent command of various languages and a good understanding of multiple cultures are in high demand in public, educational and research institutions as well as in multinational companies. Home to the European Union, NATO and hundreds of international businesses, Brussels provides the perfect setting to prepare yourself for such a job. Moreover, with its wide range of theatres, museums, literary festivals and cultural institutions (Goethe Institut, Instituto Cervantes, Istituto Italiano di Cultura,…), the city allows students to connect their courses on literature and drama with the recent work of contemporary artists.
First steps in the job market

A Master’s degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies opens doors in many different branches and sectors. You will be able to work in the private sector, (non-) governmental organisations, or continue your academic career as a PhD researcher at the VUB. Highly skilled professionals with an excellent command of various languages and a good understanding of multiple cultures are needed in national and international public institutions and in multinational companies. Brussels is the perfect environment to prepare you for such a job. Not sure what your next step will be? The VUB Career Center helps you with your first steps on the job market with workshops, networking events, job fairs, tips ’n tricks for job interviews. Everything a multilingual graduate needs!
Tuition fees
All Flemish universities in Belgium are subsidised by the government, which results in relatively low tuition fees. The general tuition fee for our master programmes is €890/year. Some master programmes have an increased tuition fee for students with a non EU/EEA nationality. A detailed overview of the tuition fees can be found on: www.vub.ac.be/en/tuition-fees

Application deadline
Prospective students are advised to apply as soon as possible, even if they have not yet obtained their degree. Applications can only be submitted through our website www.vub.ac.be/en/apply
• Students who require a visa (non-EU/EEA nationals) need to submit their application before March 31st
• Students who do not require a visa must apply before June 1st
Note: if the proof of English proficiency or APS certificate is not ready before the deadline, you can always submit it later instead of missing the deadline.

Contact
For more info: www.vub.ac.be/en/multilingual-master

GENERAL ADMISSION CRITERIA
Admission is based upon the review of each application: proof of meeting academic and language requirements, personal motivation, etc.
Language requirements:
Prospective students can provide proof of sufficient knowledge of English as language of instruction by meeting one of the following criteria:
• having successfully completed one of the following language proficiency tests:
  • TOEFL: minimum level: 213 for the computer-based test; 80 for the internet-based test
  • IELTS: minimum level academic module 6.5
  • CAE: minimum grade B
  • CPE: minimum grade C
• having successfully completed at least one year of secondary school with English as language of instruction, or having successfully completed secondary school in a Belgian institution;
• having successfully completed programme units in higher education with a minimum of 54 ECTS-credits where English was the language of instruction.
For more details on admission requirements and application: www.vub.ac.be/en/apply

SPECIFIC ADMISSION CRITERIA
With a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literary Studies from a Flemish university, you have direct access to the master programme. Do you have an undergraduate degree in another field of study? You can also enrol as soon as you have completed the one-year Preparatory Programme for the Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literary Studies. This Preparatory Programme takes into account the credits you have previously earned.