



Universität
Basel

Departement
Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften



Studying English

MA English

Dr. Zeynep Köylü
Anglophone Linguistics and Literary Studies

The MA English in a Nutshell



ANGLOPHONE LITERARY & CULTURAL STUDIES

- English and Irish Literature since the Renaissance
- North American and General Literature
- Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures (includes all former British colonies and protectorates)
- Cultural Media, Drama and Theater
- Literary History
- Literary Theory

ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

- Cognitive Linguistics
- First and Second Language Acquisition
- Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of English (e.g., Interaction, Politeness, etc.)
- Computer-Mediated Communication
- Translation and Interpreting Studies

Why Study English at Basel?

The Premises:

The Department of English is housed in the so-called "Schönes Haus" ("Beautiful House"), the oldest stone building in Basel. We pride ourselves of offering one of the most beautiful study environments in all of Switzerland!

Innovative Research:

Current and recent large-scale projects include [WordWeb / Intertextuality in Drama of the Early Modern Period](#), [The Pragmatics of Fictional Dialogues in Improvised Performance](#), and [Dis-Agree](#).

Exceptional Teaching:

Our instructors are regularly nominated for [teaching awards](#), and our courses often reflect timely issues. Please do browse our [course listings](#) for the last couple of years to get an idea of the range of courses we offer.



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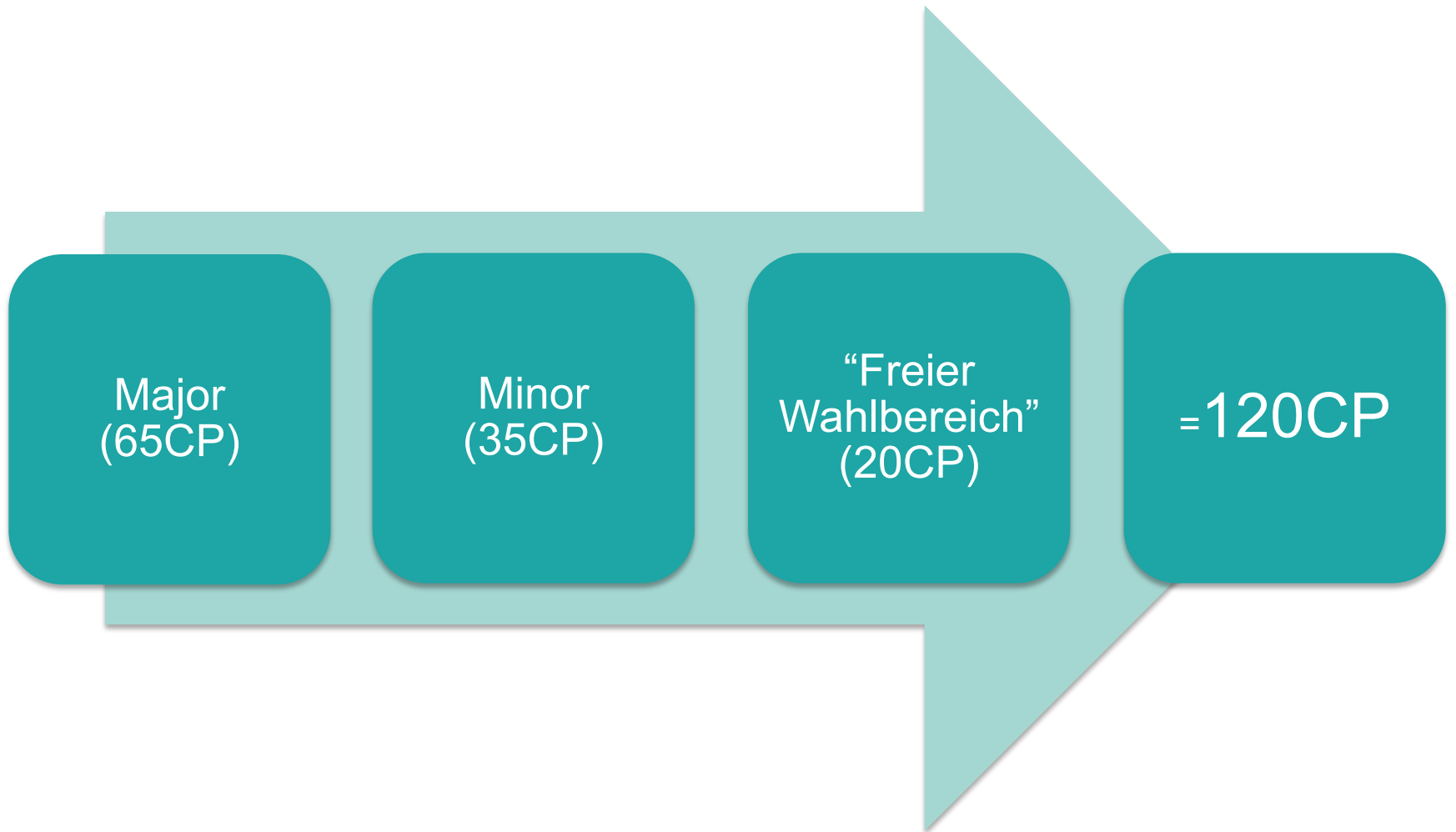
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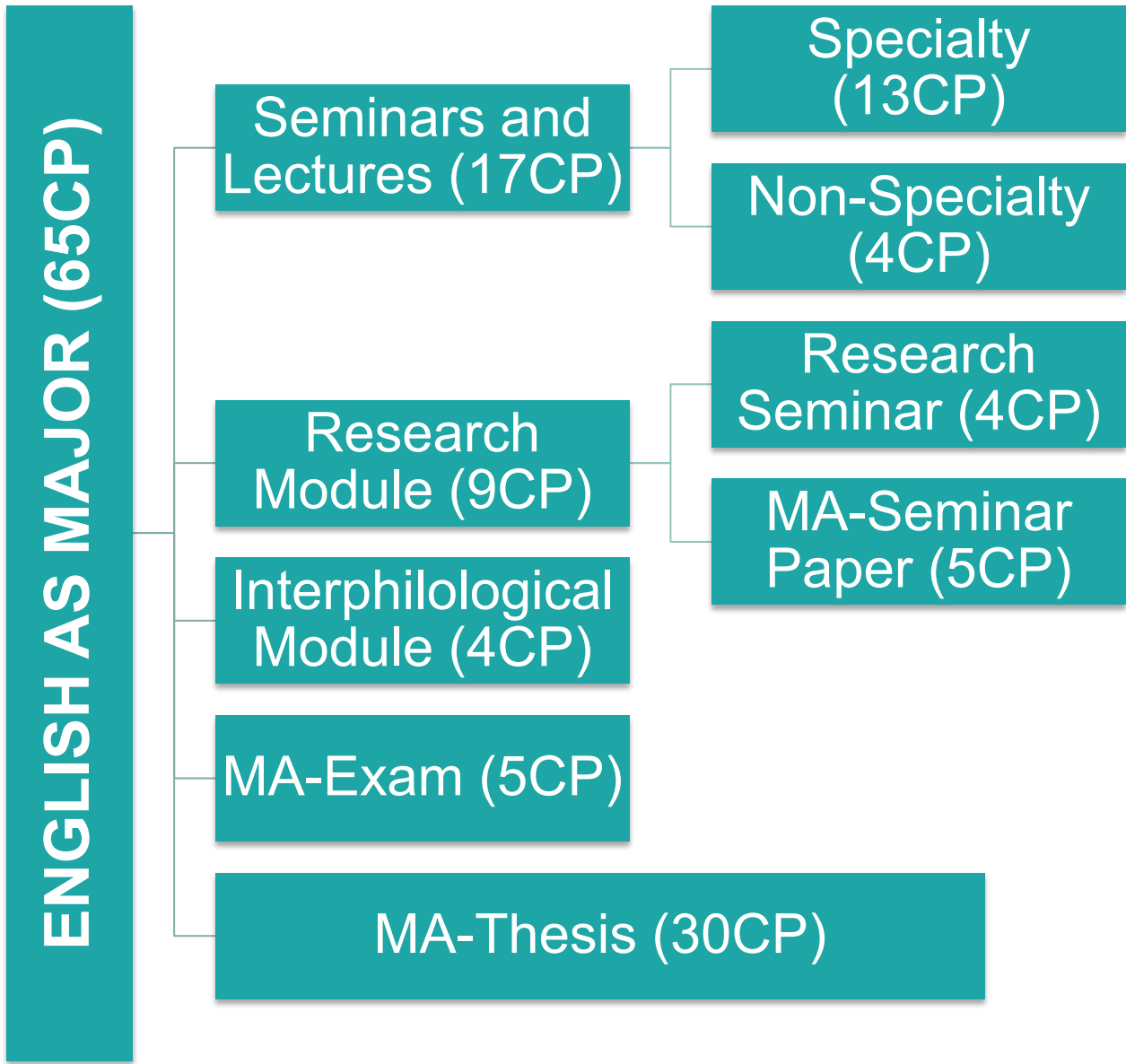


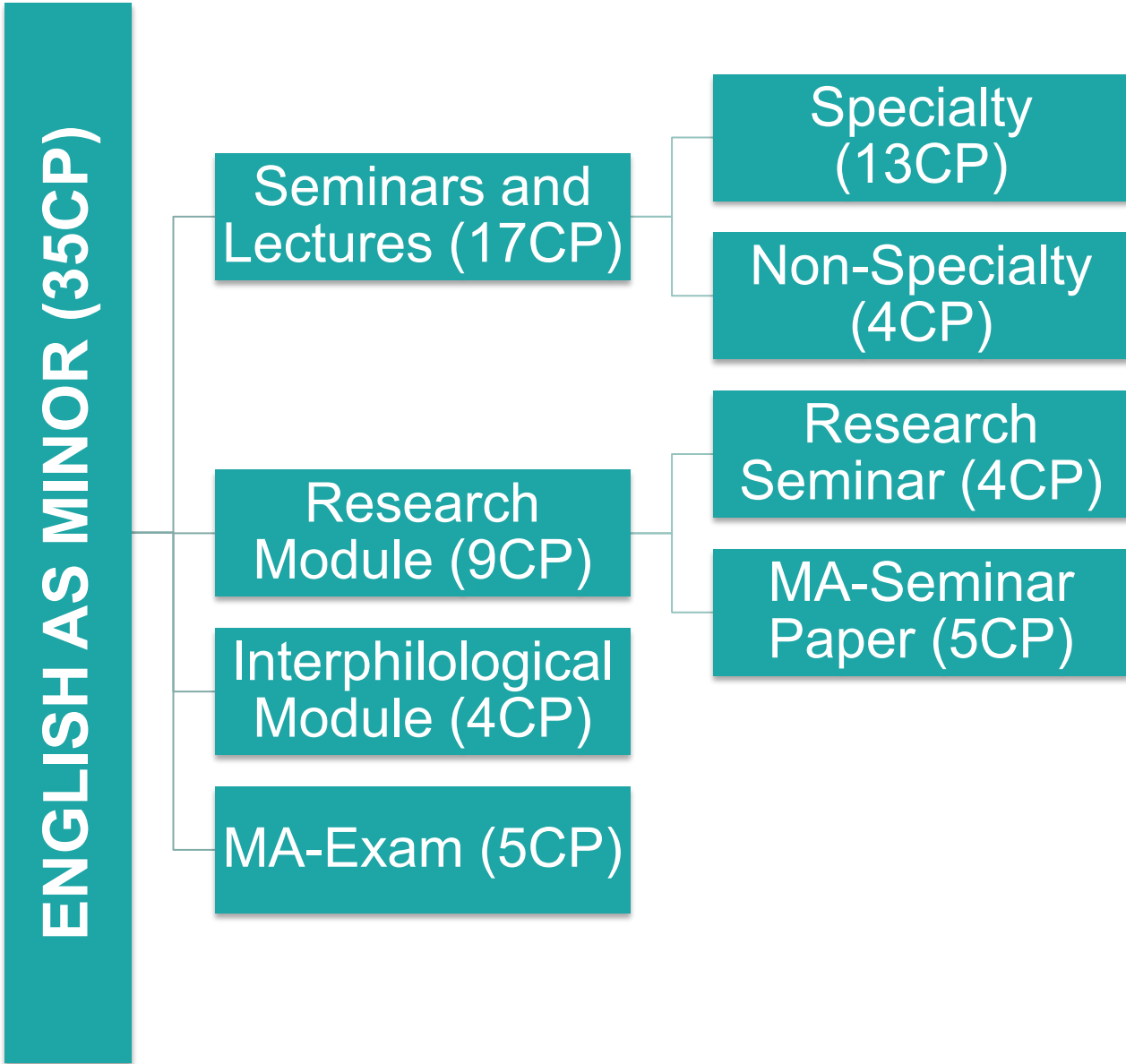
Degree Structure



MA English



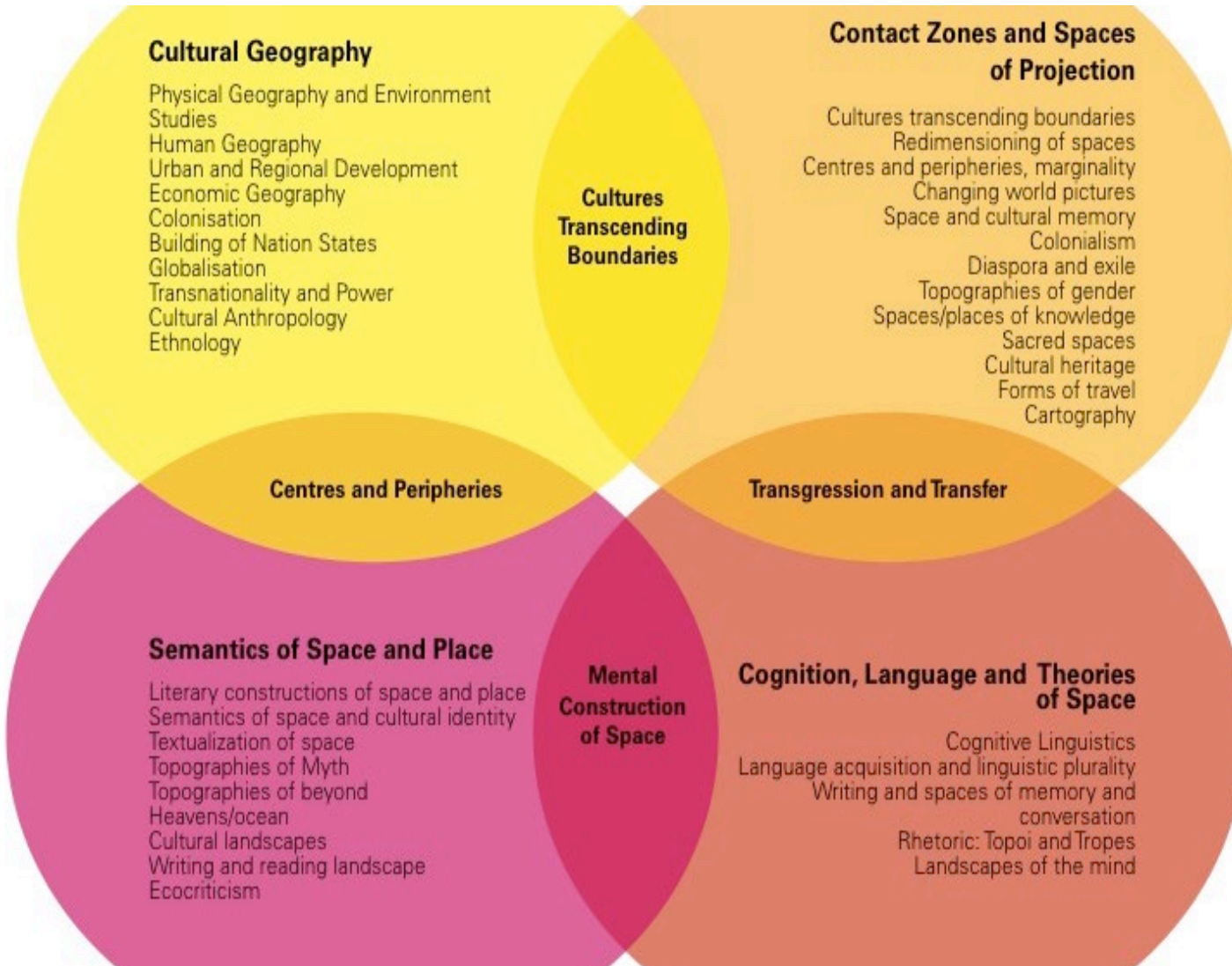




Certificates

- Ancient Greek and Modern Theatre & Performance Studies
- Croatian / Serbian Language and Culture
- Literature and Poetics: Mythopoetics
- Russian Language and Culture
- Czech Language and Culture
- Cultural Topographies

Certificate in Cultural Topographies



kompetenzzentrum kulturelle topographie

Career Prospects

Our graduates take on [jobs in various areas](#):

- education
- cultural institutions
- information and documentation services
- marketing
- newspapers, radio and television
- public relations
- publishing houses
- the diplomatic corps
- academic research and teaching

Students are advised to think about their career choices and to acquire work experience while still at university. The department is happy to help with [internship and teaching practice opportunities](#).



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Research & Teaching: Two Examples



Research Projects in English Linguistics

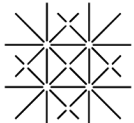
Our department has housed a variety of groundbreaking [research projects in English Linguistics](#) funded by internal and external sources.

These are some of our recent and ongoing projects:

- **UniBas:** The Long-term Impact of Study Abroad on Linguistic Proficiency, Intercultural Competence, and Plurilingualism (PI: Dr. Zeynep Köylü)
- **UniBas:** Pragmatics of Fiction: Lay Subtitling and Online Communal Viewing (PIs: Prof. Dr. Miriam Locher and Dr. Thomas Messerli)
- **UniBas:** Linguistic Manifestations of Different Attachment Types (Pis: Prof. Dr. Heike Behrens and Prof. Dr. Stefan Pfänder)
- **UniBas:** SwissBritNet: Swiss-British cultural exchange and knowledge networks 1600-1780 (Pis: Prof. Dr. Ina Habermann and Prof. Dr. Lukas Rosenthaler)
- **Eucor:** Dis-Agree (PI: Prof. Dr. Miriam Locher)



FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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Select MA Seminars 2023-2026

2026

Ghostly Ancestors, Creole Identities: Anglophone Caribbean Literatures (Sobral)

Language, Power, and Global Inequalities (Köylü)

The Multilingual City: English as a Lingua Franca in Linguistic Landscapes (Messerli)

2025

The Second Wave of the Native American Renaissance (Schweighauser)
Intercultural Pragmatics (Debray)

2024

Taylor Swift (Shields)
Advisory Discourse (Locher)

2023

GOTHIC! (Habermann)
Digital Discourse Analysis (Messerli)

Plus: [Annual EUCOR English Trinational MA and PhD Conference](#)

MA Seminar in Literary Studies: Creole Identities: Anglophone Caribbean Literatures (Sobral)

Course Description

One of the pivotal areas of colonial enterprise since Christopher Columbus reached the Bahamas in 1492, the Caribbean became the stage for major developments in European colonialism. The highly conflictual history of the region has left indelible marks in the collective memory of its people and has strongly influenced literary production. This seminar examines the ways in which the past has shaped the present in Caribbean cultures and literatures. Covering major topics such as exploration travels, slave trade, piracy, plantation slavery, slave uprisings, maroon communities, racial miscegenation and gendered experiences, our focus will be on Anglophone Caribbean narratives that reflect the area's history of occupation and struggle for independence. We will discuss foremost postcolonial writers such as Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua), Edward Brathwaite (Barbados), Derek Walcott (Saint Lucia) and Michelle Cliff (Jamaica), and we will explore a variety of texts and media, ranging from novels and poetry to essays, Reggae music and film. Our discussions will be shaped by theoretical reflections on issues of creolization and hybridity, as well as by cultural memory studies.

MA Seminar in Linguistics: *Language, Power, and Global Inequalities (Köylü)*

Course Description

This BA/MA seminar provides an overview of critical perspectives on the relationship between language, power, and social inequality. In this seminar, we aim to examine how linguistic practices both reflect and reproduce social hierarchies across diverse contexts such as education, mobility, migration, media, and global communication. We will review and discuss a range of theoretical and methodological approaches within critical applied linguistics and sociolinguistics, focusing on how they address issues of ideology, identity, and access. Particular attention will be given to the global role of English, both as a native language (ENL) associated with privilege, authority, and linguistic capital, and as a lingua franca (ELF) that enables transnational communication while introducing new forms of inequality and negotiation. Students will have the opportunity to design, conduct, analyze, and present a small-scale qualitative project that investigates how power relations are enacted, negotiated, or resisted through language use. Although the focus is on English as a native language and a lingua franca in global and multilingual settings, the seminar is also relevant for students interested in broader questions of language, justice, and inequality.



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Mobility & Extracurricular Activities

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SAUTE
Swiss Association of University Teachers of English

16.00-18.00

Guest talk by Prof. Michelle Witen on
James Joyce's *Ulysses*

Brief presentations on:
British life in Basel, past and present
English as a Lingua Franca

From 18.00
Party, with music and dance from:
Bluejay

Scottish Country Dance Group Basel
Andrew Shields and the Alumni Band:
The Literati

Friday 13th May
From 16.00 hrs.
Englisches Seminar
Nadelberg 6

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

SAUTE
75TH ANNIVERSARY!
A CELEBRATION OF BRITISH AND IRISH CULTURE IN BASEL




**BLOOMSDAY
IN BASEL**



JUNE 16, 5 PM ONWARDS
Schönes Haus, Nadelberg 6, CH-4051

BBQ + DRINKS
(bring your own)

FREE ADMISSION
donations welcome

featuring
DRAMATIC SCENES
from Joyce's Works

"MILKING IT"
A Culinary Odyssey through *Ulysses*

LIVE MUSIC
Scéalta + Nimmermeer
+ Joyce Division + Stephanie Zundel

webpages
<https://english.philhist.unibas.ch/en/about-us/extracurricular-activities/bloomsday/>
<https://www.facebook.com/BloomsdayInBasel>



Mobility

➤ EUCOR

All Basel students are eligible to attend courses at our EUCOR partner universities Freiburg i. Br., Mulhouse, and Strasbourg

➤ Studying Abroad

The English Department and the University of Basel have teamed up with a range of international partner institutions to provide you with the best possible study abroad experience

➤ Contact

Simone Sumpf (studienberatung-dslw@unibas.ch)

➤ Mobility Office



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Extracurricular Opportunities and Support



- Student Association
(Fachgruppe Englisch)
- The Gay Beggars
- English Seminar Choir

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I start the MA in English?

The MA English can be started **both in the fall and the spring term**. The registration deadline for the fall term is 30 April, for the spring term 30 November.

How long does it take to study English at the MA level?

The MA is conceived as a **two-year course of full-time study**. It may, however, be taken part-time. This results in prolonged studies.

With what other MA subjects can the MA English be combined?

In general, the MA English can be combined with **any other MA subject** offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and a selection of other subjects from other faculties at the University of Basel.

Which language requirements do I have to fulfill?


A **BA in English** qualifies you to enroll without any restrictions. Generally, we expect **C2 Proficiency**.

More Information: [Department Website](#)

Degree Programmes Documents Contact Search

University of Basel
Department of Languages and Literatures

Anglophone Linguistics and Literary Studies



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[Doctorate](#)

[Research](#)

[About us](#)



Join In!

For a treat of some **actual live teaching**, please get in touch with Dr. Zeynep Köylü (zeynep.koylu@unibas.ch), with whom you can sign up to **join one to two sessions of our current spring term courses**. Please browse our [course offerings](#) and tell Zeynep which course you would like to sign up for.



Contact Details

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Dr. Thomas Messerli
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Thank you!
Questions?