

11.06.2024

Pre-service teacher training, grades 1–7 and 5–10,

## Information on taking English at MA level

Dear future English students,

We are looking forward to welcoming you into graduate-level English in the fall of 2024! This letter provides you with information regarding taking the English subject specifically. For information on making a choice of subject and how to register this choice, as well as details of the general pre-requisites for progressing to master's-level study, please see the [GLU information website](#).

In the fall of 2024, you will take two English courses: English 5 and English 6. Together, these courses aim to give you a deeper understanding of the English language, communication, texts, and literature, as well as to support you as you start to undertake independent research at the master's level, culminating in writing your MA thesis in the spring of 2026. Broadly speaking, English 5 focuses on literature and culture, while English 6 focuses on language. Together, they comprise a full-time course of study of 35–40 hours of work per week. A brief introduction to these courses is provided below. For additional information, please see the official course descriptions, available here: [EN5](#) / [EN6](#).

The courses taught in the fall of your fourth year, English 5 and 6, are taught online and through in-person seminars. Online classes are provided via Zoom. Online English 5 classes are taught on Mondays, and English 6 on Tuesdays. The in-person seminars run Wednesday to Friday in weeks 34, 39, and 45 in Drammen. Instructions for how to get to USN Drammen are available [here](#). Further details about classes are available on Canvas and in TimeEdit.

### Fourth-Year English Courses

#### ***English 5: Texts in Context***

This 15-credit module builds on the literary studies and approaches to didactics that you were introduced to in the foundational modules English 2 and English 4. You will be introduced to key issues such as reception and adaptation studies and how texts reflect and are shaped by the context they are produced and consumed within.

The syllabus for the course is available [here](#). We strongly recommend that you order and get started on reading the longer literary texts prior to the start of the course. Some texts may be easiest to order online.

There are two exams: a research paper and an oral exam.

The course convenor for this course is Houman Sadri: [houman.sadri@usn.no](mailto:houman.sadri@usn.no).

### ***English 6: Texts and Communication***

This 15-credit module builds on what you have learned about pragmatics and communicative language teaching in the foundational modules English 1 and English 3. The module will for instance center on how you may use linguistics and knowledge about different genres to facilitate learning.

The syllabus for the course is available [here](#).

There are two exams: a written exam and a portfolio exam.

The course convenor for this course is Lotta Strandberg: [lotta.strandberg@usn.no](mailto:lotta.strandberg@usn.no).

### ***Teaching Practicum***

Your fourth-year teaching practicum lasts three weeks and will take place in weeks 42–44.

### ***Master's Seminars***

During the fall of your fourth year, you will also be offered seminars relating to the GLU master's thesis. Further details about these seminars will be provided in a timely manner.

## **Fifth-Year English Courses**

### ***English 8: Master's Thesis***

This 45-credit module focuses on completing your master's research project and writing your master's thesis in the English subject. The master's thesis is worth 30 credits and is written in English.

We advise you to keep this in mind throughout your fourth year, as you will be asked to provide a preliminary project proposal in the spring of your fourth year and will be matched with a potential supervisor based on the topic(s) you wish to explore in your thesis. Further information and guidance will be provided in meetings throughout your fourth year.

### **Expectations**

Now that you are at the MA level, our expectations of you are higher. We expect you to have completed all required readings prior to classes and to engage actively in in-class discussions and activities. It will be difficult for you to pass the courses if you do not prepare adequately for and participate in class.

Practicing your oral skills in English is important for your professional development and will help you feel confident in your oral exam. This semester is an opportunity to immerse yourself in speaking English. If your lecturers can do anything to make participation easier for you, please don't hesitate to let us know.

You can expect us to respond in a timely manner to your questions, make information available to you via Canvas, guide you to understand the course materials and discover new readings and research interests, and provide formative feedback on your classwork and assignments. However, please note that you cannot expect us to answer emails immediately, in the evenings, or during weekends.

### **Student Loans and Grants**

If you choose to study English, you may be eligible for a 50.000 kroner reduction in your student loans. Please see the [Lånekassen website](#) for details or discuss your options directly with Lånekassen.

### **Further Questions?**

If you have further questions about English, please contact Houman Sadri ([houman.sadri@usn.no](mailto:houman.sadri@usn.no)), Tom Bradstreet ([tom.z.bradstreet@usn.no](mailto:tom.z.bradstreet@usn.no)), or Jennifer Duggan ([jennifer.duggan@usn.no](mailto:jennifer.duggan@usn.no)), who are Graduate Co-Chairs for GLU English.

Have a lovely summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the autumn!

Warmly,

The GLU English Section