

ISCL semester introduction

ISCL, University of Tübingen

Winter Semester 2026-2027, October 12, 2026



General Remarks

- There is no official course registration
- Most Sfs instructors will ask you to register online through Moodle or Ilias
- You **have to** register for 'exams' on ALMA towards the end of the semester
- In *exceptional cases* you can get a certificate 'Schein' from the instructor without registering
- Please read your university email (@student.uni-tuebingen.de) at least once a day
- You are strongly recommended to review/consult the module handbook (latest version can be found at <https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/128311>)

ISCL BA: first semester

Obligatory courses:

Title	Instructor	Module(s)
Introduction to CL ¹	Kabashi	ISCL-BA-01
Data Structures and Algorithms for CL I ¹	Saile	ISCL-BA-01
Methods I: Logic	Richardson / Jäger	ASW-BA-02
Methods II: Programming	Snider	ASW-BA-03
Linguistic Fundamentals	Stupak	ASW-BA-04

1. Also for ISCL minor students

Other courses:

- Key Qualification courses offered throughout the university

ISCL BA: third semester

Obligatory courses:

Title	Instructor	Module(s)
Data Structures and Algorithms for CL III	Çöltekin	ISCL-BA-07
Stat. NLP I (Parsing)	Çöltekin	ISCL-BA-06
Psycholinguistics ¹	Hannß	ASW-BA-06
Syntax and Semantics ¹	Dellert	ASW-BA-05

1. This course is one of the general linguistics requirements.

Other courses:

- Key Qualification courses
- Supplementary courses in General Linguistics

ISCL BA: fifth semester

- BA students have to take advanced courses (Hauptseminare) for ISCL-BA-11 (15 credits)
- Note: you need to write a term paper in one of the courses
- Advanced courses offered (mostly from GL) can also be used for required general linguistics electives
 - Language and Cognition (ASW-BA-08)
 - Variation, Evolution & Change (ASW-BA-09)
 - Language Use (ASW-BA-10)
- Key Qualification courses
- Internship

ISCL BA: internships

- ISCL major students are required to do a 'software internship'
- Internships should be at least 270 hours, of which 190 hours have to be spent on programming-related tasks
- Typically done during the summer after the fourth semester
- It can also be spread on a longer period can also be during the semester (if part time)
- Internships are evaluated with a presentation (once a semester, towards the end) and a short report (max. 10 pages)
- **Start looking for internships early, it may take time to find one**
- You should aim for an 'industry' internship You are strongly discouraged to do your internship in the university / academic research environments

ISCL MA: Overall structure

Two types of modules:

- Core area (typically, courses taught by ISCL staff) 15ECTS each
 - ISCL-MA-01
 - ISCL-MA-03
 - ISCL-MA-05
- Supplementary area (courses from General Linguistics, or other departments) 15ECTS each
 - ISCL-MA-02 (basics) may be pre-specified in your admission letter
 - ISCL-MA-04
 - ISCL-MA-06 an (optional) internship or further supplementary courses
- The thesis and the final exam

Admission requirements

- Depending on your background, your admission letter may indicate taking some 'basic' courses
- It is important to take these courses *at first opportunity* (first semester that they are offered)
- You may not be able to take advanced CL courses without completing these requirements
- Independent of the actual credits of the courses, all of the admission requirements will be counted towards ISCL-MA-02 (15CP)
- You can do an optional internship, which may count towards all or a part of ISCL-MA-06

Advanced courses I

Title	Instructor	Module(s)
NLP for Computational Social Science	Frermann	R
Cross-disciplinary Perspectives on Narratives	Frermann & Ritter	R U
Computing Emotions	Kabashi	R U C
Alignment in Generative AI: Technical and Ethical Issues	Kabashi	R U C
Language Model Interpretability	Klumpp	R
Discrete Methods for Modern AI	Richardson	R
Do Language Models Model Language or the Human Mind?	Wang	R
Text as Data	Aroyehun	R

R: Core CL (ISCL-BA-11, ISCL-MA-1/2/3/4/5/6), E: Variation, Evaluation & Change (ASW-BA-09),
C: Language & Cognition (ASW-BA-08), U: Language Use (ASW-BA-10), S: Supplementary (MA-2/4/6)

Advanced courses II

Title	Instructor	Module(s)
Conducting Sociolinguistic Research	Beaman	S U E
Historical Linguistics	Dellert	S E
Speech prosody: acoustics, structure, and meaning	Güneş	S E U
Early Language Acquisition Across Cultures	Mažara	S C E
Probing the Linguistic Mind: Experiments in Language Acquisition and Processing	Mažara	S C U
Cognitive Linguistics	Hannß	S C
Pidgins, Creoles, and Mixed Languages	Hannß	S C U E

R: Core CL (ISCL-BA-11, ISCL-MA-1/2/3/4/5/6), E: Variation, Evaluation & Change (ASW-BA-09),
C: Language & Cognition (ASW-BA-08), U: Language Use (ASW-BA-10), S: Supplementary (MA-2/4/6)

Advanced courses III

Title	Instructor	Module(s)
Method in Pragmatics	Snider	S C U
The Languages and Linguistics of Papunesia and Australia	Krauß	S E
Linguistic Universals:A Cognitive Perspective	Achimova & Butz S C	
Lexical Typology	Moosavi	S C E
Bridging Formal and Computational Semantics	Moosavi	S C

R: Core CL (ISCL-BA-11, ISCL-MA-1/2/3/4/5/6), E: Variation, Evaluation & Change (ASW-BA-09),
C: Language & Cognition (ASW-BA-08), U: Language Use (ASW-BA-10), S: Supplementary (MA-2/4/6)

Advanced courses IV

Spatial Relations in German and Ukrainian	Stupak	S C U E
Grammatical Number in Ukrainian: A Distributional Approach	Stupak	S C U
Semantics and Syntax of Causative Verbs in German and Ukrainian	Stupak	S U E
R: Core CL (ISCL-BA-11, ISCL-MA-1/2/3/4/5/6), E: Variation, Evaluation & Change (ASW-BA-09), C: Language & Cognition (ASW-BA-08), U: Language Use (ASW-BA-10), S: Supplementary (MA-2/4/6)		

ISCL MA: Internship

- For ISCL MA, an internship is **not** compulsory, but possible
- The internship has to be in a company, university/research work does not count
- Unlike BA internships, MA internships should not only be an 'industry experience', but it should give you knowledge and skills relevant to CL
- For your internship to count towards the degree, you need to get an approval from the MA study advisor **before** you start your internship

ISCL MA: thesis

- You need to complete all other requirements before officially registering for your thesis
- Theses can be in any CL area you are interested in, can (but does not have to) be based on a seminar you took
- You need a (primary) supervisor, and a second reader/examiner
- Topic/title has to be agreed with both examiners
- After registration, you need to complete your thesis in 4 months
- An ISCL MA thesis is typically a 70-80 pages document describing a CL project
- There is no need to wait until the official thesis period for deciding for the thesis/supervisor(s), and starting working on it

ISCL MA: The final exam

- The final exam is a one-hour oral exam, administered by the thesis supervisor, in the presence of an 'observer'
- The exam is typically either before or after the four-month thesis period
- The topics of the exam is agreed with your supervisor
- The topics should *not* be related to your thesis topic
- A common practice is choosing two CL seminars you took during your study
- The questions are restricted to a pre-determined set of papers (5–6 papers from each seminar)

Final remarks

- No standard way to register for ISCL courses (typically on Moodle, but depends on the instructors)
- For courses from other departments, follow the information on ALMA
- You need to register for the examination before the exam period (towards the end of the semester, deadline can be found on the Prüfungsamt web page)
- Your grades are either directly entered on ALMA, or through a certificate 'Schein' which you need to hand to the examination office (Prüfungsamt)
- Please register for the [ISCL information/introduction Moodle course](#)
- Make sure to read your university email address at least once a day
- There will be an additional Q&A session (primarily for new MA students) tomorrow, Tuesday April 14, 15:00, in room 218, Keplerstr. 2

Useful contact information I

- Department secretary: Anja Ehinger <sfssekr@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de>; room 185; Tue–Thu 9–11 (picking up Scheine, etc.)
- BA advisor: Jochen Saile <iscl-ba-advisor@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de>; room 154 (please send an email to make an appointment)
- Internship advisor: Çağrı Çöltekin <ccoltekin@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de>; room 152; office hours: Thu 13–14 (please send an email to make an appointment)
- MA advisor: Çağrı Çöltekin <iscl-ma-advisor@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de>; room 152; office hours: Thu 13–14 (please send an email to make an appointment)

Useful contact information II

- Erasmus advisor: Johannes Dellert <erasmus@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de>; room 094; office hours: Mon 15–16, Thu 14–16 (please send an email to make an appointment)
- Linguistic modules advisors
 - BA: Johannes Dellert <studienberatung-as-ba@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de>; room 160; office hours: Mon 15–16, Thu 14–16 (please send an email to make an appointment)
 - MA: Todd Snider, <studienberatung-as-ma@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de>; office: 166; (please send an email to make an appointment)
- Fachschaft: Association of all students studying (computational/general) linguistics: <https://fs-linguistics.github.io>;
<fachschaft@semsprach.uni-tuebingen.de>