

## **MA in Linguistics - Research Project**

The project consists of two stages. At the end of the first year, the student drafts a Research Proposal. This then serves as the departure point for completing the actual Research Paper, which is due at the end of the second year.

### **The Proposal**

The Proposal is due by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the first year. It consists of four to five pages (single-spaced) of prose, plus a brief bibliography. The Proposal should describe clearly and explicitly the student's research questions and working hypotheses. The theoretical framework that will be adopted to address the research questions should be presented within an appropriate literature review. The proposal should also present the methodology to be used for the collection and analysis of data and include a reasonably detailed timeline for carrying out the project in the time allotted. If ethics approval is required (see below), the proposal should state whether approval has been obtained or is pending. If the student is planning on collecting data in the summer of the first year, the proposal must be approved BEFORE data collection starts. The board encourages students to consult with the Director and their Supervisor about the timing for submission.

All research involving human subjects must receive approval from the Office of Human Research Ethics. Students will normally apply for approval from the Non Medical Research Ethics Board, with their supervisor as the Principal Investigator. Obtaining ethics approval can take up to three months; students should therefore work closely with their supervisor to submit their protocol well in advance of data collection.

In preparing the Proposal, the student should consult with the Supervisor, submitting a draft for feedback. S/he may also wish to submit it to the Second Reader, if that person's identity is already known. The Proposal should be written in accessible language, as it will be graded as Pass/Fail by the Linguistics Graduate Board, consisting of five faculty members representing various sub-disciplines. The final version should be submitted electronically to the Grad Assistant and to the Director.

### **The Paper**

The Research Paper consists of 40-60 pages including bibliography. Unlike an MA Thesis, the Research Paper is not expected to make a substantial new contribution to knowledge. The aim is to have the student manifest the capacity to undertake significant research, applying the relevant methodologies. The Paper is graded by the Supervisor and by a Second Reader. The student is responsible for informing the Director and the Grad Assistant who the readers will be. Like the Proposal, the Paper is graded as Pass/Fail, where the Paper must receive a grade of at least 70% from each reader in order to pass.

To graduate on time, these grades must be submitted to the Grad Assistant and the Director by August 30<sup>th</sup>. Since the Supervisor and Second Reader will typically need at least two weeks to evaluate the paper and submit the mark, the paper must be completed and submitted before August 15<sup>th</sup>. The Supervisor will set the exact date in consultation with the student and the Second Reader. The Research Paper should be submitted electronically to the Grad Assistant, who will send it to the Supervisor and the Second Reader for evaluation.