

What is SoMu?

SoMu is the acronym of the International Master's Programme in Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism.

It is a joint degree programme offered by Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz (Germany) and Vytautas Magnus University Kaunas (Lithuania) in cooperation with Stockholm University (Sweden) and the University of Tartu (Estonia).

This Master's Programme offers profound knowledge to students who are interested in the role of language in society.

Study Locations

1st Semester: Kaunas

2nd Semester: Mainz

3rd Semester: Tartu or Stockholm

4th Semester: University where the advisor of the M.A. thesis is employed

Programme Details

The Master's Programme is taught in English.
The Master's Programme is admission free.
The Programme starts in the winter semester.
The application deadline is the 20th of June.
Students receive an international degree.



International Master in Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism

Further information



<http://somu.vdu.lt>



www.facebook.com/somu.vdu



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Two-Year Joint Degree Programme offered by
Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz | Germany
Vytautas Magnus University Kaunas | Lithuania
Stockholm University | Sweden
University of Tartu | Estonia



Why SoMu?

Throughout the last decade multilingualism has become a large factor within the international society. Public interest in multilingualism and how to deal with it is growing steadily and provides a great chance for societal change. Increasing immigration and globalization demand more sensitivity for social structures, mutual understanding, tolerance, mobility and flexibility. SoMu has apprehended these developments and social effects and made them the study aim.

Different languages and cultures intermingle, and their interaction in daily experiences and social areas is firmly established; be it in commercial relationships, migration or vacation travels. Multilingualism is not a new phenomenon. Today's developments are situated between long-known and new phenomena, between straightforwardness and complexity, between the individual person and society.

The International Master's Programme gives students insight into European multilingualism of the Baltic Sea region; they will not only learn about but also experience multilingual situations. Students obtain practical tools to analyze multilingual situations while gaining interdisciplinary competence.

They familiarize themselves with general theories and methods of sociolinguistics like the traditional sociolinguistics, the constructivist sociolinguistics, language variation and many more. In addition, students gather international experiences in at least two semesters abroad, receive language skills in the less common European languages Lithuanian, Estonian and/or Swedish and deepen their command of English.

Subject of Study

- Social, linguistic and regional factors influencing language use
- Multilingualism in the Baltic Sea area
- Language variation
- Individual, group, nation and society
- Relationship of language use and social structure
- Identity
- Historical heritage
- National languages – minority languages

Requirements

- A Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in humanities or social sciences, at least 30 ECTS in the field of linguistics or philology
- Good knowledge of English at the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
- Students from non-partner universities are asked to provide proof of their English language proficiency

Possible Occupational Fields

- Academics and research, e. g. execution of research tasks and doctoral studies in sociolinguistics, intercultural communication, identity, multilingualism, etc.
- Consulting and schooling in issues regarding multilingualism in political and cultural institutions of the EU, in educational establishments and in economic and finance organizations
- Activities in different international, national, regional public and private institutions and projects in the field of multilingualism, language planning and (linguistic) policies
- Media, e. g. political journalism

The Modules in Brief

In Kaunas

- Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe I
 - Mediatization of Language, Culture and Everyday Life
 - Multilingualism in Europe
- Language and Communication Skills I
 - English Academic Writing
 - Cross-Cultural Communication
 - Lithuanian Language Course (for non-natives)
- Methods of Sociolinguistics I
 - Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods

In Mainz

- Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe II
 - Regional and Minority Languages
 - Current Trends in Sociolinguistics
- Language and Communication Skills II
 - German Language Course (for non-natives)
 - Research Reporting
- Methods in Sociolinguistics II
 - Qualitative Data Analysis
 - Professional Project Planning

In Tartu

- Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe III.a: Language Contacts
- Language and Communication Skills III.a
- Historical and Cultural Background III.a

The focus of all modules at UT lies on the Estonian language.

In Stockholm

- Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe III.b: Language Contacts
- Language and Communication Skills III.b
- Historical and Cultural Background III.b

The focus of all modules at SU lies on the Baltic languages.

