

### Course Objectives and Outcomes

Prerequisites: Good reading skills in English; basic familiarity with the proposed sub-field(s) in applied sign linguistics

Course objectives:

- To gain experience in designing, planning, implementing and reporting on a personal project in Applied Sign Language Studies.
- To learn how to undertake background research into a selected topic, including both literature review and other sources.
- To practice academic writing at advanced postgraduate level.
- To understand the basics of research ethics.
- To apply knowledge in research methodologies to a project in a logical way.
- To learn project management skills such as planning, team building, logistics and coordination.
- To practice documentation of a project alongside its implementation.
- To understand the perspective of stakeholders and beneficiaries in relation to a personal project.

Course outcomes:

- CO1: Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and the role of research in applied sign linguistics and related interdisciplinary contexts.
- CO2: Define a researchable or practice-relevant problem and articulate clear research questions and objectives grounded in prior literature and stakeholder needs.
- CO3: Justify an appropriate research design and methodology (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed), including sampling/participant engagement and suitable research tools, and formulate testable hypotheses where relevant.
- CO4: Collect, manage, analyse, and interpret project evidence, presenting results using appropriate qualitative syntheses and/or descriptive and inferential summaries.
- CO5: Communicate project outcomes through structured academic and professional writing, using appropriate citation practices and demonstrating academic integrity.
- CO6: Conduct the project ethically, demonstrating informed consent procedures, confidentiality, responsible data stewardship, and reflection on governance and, where applicable, intellectual property considerations.

Skills:

- Apply scientific thinking and critical reasoning to refine the project approach as evidence evolves.
- Plan, manage, and coordinate an independent project, including timelines, resources, and risk mitigation.
- Conduct and synthesize a literature review to justify the project rationale and methodological choices.
- Design and implement data collection using appropriate research tools and participant engagement strategies, where applicable.
- Analyse and interpret qualitative and/or quantitative evidence, presenting findings through appropriate tables, charts, and narrative syntheses.
- Produce structured academic and professional writing outputs (proposal, field diary/progress log, report, publication-oriented paper) with correct referencing.

- Implement ethical research procedures (participant information, consent, confidentiality, data management) and maintain transparent documentation.
- Coordinate project activities with stakeholders/beneficiaries through reviews and feedback, and use suitable project management and documentation tools.

## **Syllabus**

### Unit I Preparations and identifying a project

- Discussions with supervisors to delineate a project
- Project outline / proposal (500-750 words)
- Team-internal ethics review to understand any ethics implications

### Unit II Background research

- Identify appropriate topics for which background research is needed
- Undertake a literature review on the identified topics
- Compile other sources for background research besides publications
- Summary of findings from background research (1,000-1,500 words)

### Unit III Project planning

- Formulate specific research questions in relation to the project.
- Identify (a) suitable methodological framework(s) for the project (field study, survey, prototyping, online activity, etc)
- Create a timeline of activities and a summary of resources needed for the project
- Identify a field site setting and gain field site permissions if applicable
- Convene a project team and conduct team members' onboarding if applicable
- Identify beneficiaries of the project, if applicable, and plan for their involvement

### Unit IV Implementation of the project

- Select project-specific methodologies and address any methodological skill gaps
- Implement project actions according to the project plan, with readjustments as necessary
- Logistics and coordination with other team members or institutions if applicable
- Maintain an implementation log / field diary / portfolio or similar format throughout the project

### Unit IV Project outcomes

- One written output of 4,000 - 5,000 words from the following list (word count may include (sections of) the project outline and the literature review as appropriate):
  - o Project outcome report
  - o Policy briefing or other stakeholder-oriented output
  - o Self-reflective report
  - o Co-authored (part of) an academic publication

## **Assessment**

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| - Portfolio of work (outline, field diary, documentation, etc) | 30% |
| - Written output of 4,000-5,000 words                          | 70% |

## **References**

*Academic literature and other sources as recommended by supervisors for the specific project.*