

Lexicography in higher education institutions: European Master in Lexicography with an Erasmus Mundus joint degree

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The European Master in Lexicography (EMLex) is an international master degree, which was developed in Erlangen in 2007 and is supported by the Interdisciplinary Center of Valency, Lexicography and Collocations, located at Erlangen University. The history, development and progress of this master degree is documented in the international yearbook *Lexicographica*, starting from vol. 26 (Schierholz 2010) and continued year by year in the column Lexicography in Higher Education (cf. Jesenšek / Schierholz 2011, Buchi 2012, Schierholz 2013, Domínguez Vázquez / Schierholz 2014, Gouws / Iriarte 2015, Hollós / Schierholz 2017, Bielinska / Schierholz 2017, Buchi / Blanck 2019). The EMLex has been an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programme funded by the EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency) since 2015 and through 2024.

1. Basic idea and general objectives

The EMLex programme aims to:

- promote the international and interdisciplinary training of lexicographers
- provide an attractive international course of studies at different universities in Europe and elsewhere
- bring together students from all over the world
- teach lexicographic theory at an international level
- encourage active research on behalf of the students
- emphasize applicability in the dictionary making practice

Graduates will be able to work in a publishing house, technology firm or academic institute in all fields of lexicography, from the conception of printed and electronic dictionaries to specific tasks and technical realization of lexicographic products. Besides, they are thoroughly trained in the analytic-theoretical aspects of international lexicography in order to find a field of activity in scientific research or to become advising-conceptual lexicographers in the fields of publishing or further education.

In addition to their subject-specific skills, graduates acquire practical knowledge through an internship that enables them to take on responsibility for demanding tasks in various areas of industry, culture, media, school

and adult education after having graduated. Graduates will be able to teach the theory and practice of international lexicography and dictionary research, and complete practical tasks as professional lexicographers by using advanced academic methods.

The four-semester programme commences each winter term, and includes the second semester abroad. The overall number of ECTS points of the programme is 120. The total number of students, who can be registered for EMLex at the participating universities is limited to 30 per year, due to the particular design of the summer-term block seminars in which the international component of the course manifests itself.

The contribution of independent student work can be estimated to be very high, since a high level of motivation is expected. The modules are either e-learning-modules, specific lexicography modules, or import modules of other courses of study. The post-graduates become international specialists all over Europe since EMLex is unique in Germany, in Europe and worldwide. On the basis of the contract of cooperation and the accreditation process undergone by all participating universities, it is possible to provide the students with a high-ranking certificate. All students get a Joint Master Degree signed by the presidents or rectors of all partner universities.

2. Conditions of admission

The entry into the master programme is subject to special conditions. A first university degree with an outstanding grade and a special entrance examination are necessary (cf. examination regulations). Basic knowledge of English and German are essential for participation as the teaching is done exclusively in these two languages. Besides other languages (French, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish), these two can be deepened in the first semester if necessary.

3. Participating universities

The following universities and institutes participate in the EMLex programme (responsible teachers are listed):

- Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany: Prof. Dr. Stefan Schierholz, Prof. Dr. Thomas Herbst, Prof. Dr. Stefan Evert, Dr. Michael Klotz

- Université de Lorraine (Nancy), France: Prof. Dr. Éva Buchi, Prof. Dr. Alain Polguère, Prof. Dr. Yvon Keromnes
- Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain: Prof. Dr. Maria José Domínguez Vázquez, Prof. Dr. Carlos Valcárcel Riveiro, Prof. Dr. Ernesto González Seoane
- Universidade do Minho (Braga), Portugal: Prof. Dr. Álvaro Iriarte Sanromán, Prof. Dr. Idalete Maria da Silva Dias
- Uniwersytet Śląski w Katowicach, Poland: Dr. habil. Monika Bielińska, Dr. Ewa Myrczek-Kadłubicka
- Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy: Prof. Dr. Martina Nied Curcio, Prof. Dr. Stefania Nuccorini, Prof. Dr. Paolo Vaciago
- Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem (Budapest), Hungary: Dr. habil. Zita Dötschné Hollós, Dr. habil. Dóra Pödör, Dr. Petra Szatmári
- Universität Hildesheim, Germany: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Heid, Prof. Dr. Friedrich Lenz, Prof. Dr. Laura Giacomini
- University of Stellenbosch, South Africa: Prof. Dr. Rufus H. Gouws, Prof. Dr. Ilse Feinauer.

Associated partners in the EMLex, who also provide staff as guest lecturers, include:

- Leibniz-Institut für Deutsche Sprache (German Language Institute): Prof. Dr. Stefan Engelberg, Prof. Dr. Carolin Müller-Spitzer, Dr. Annette Klosa, Dr. Dominik Brückner, Dr. Sascha Wolfer
- Ivané Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia: Prof. Dr. Tinatin Margalitadze
- Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil: Prof. Dr. Maria José Bocorny Finatto
- University of Texas (Austin)
- Lomonosow University Moscow
- Université de Montréal

4. Curriculum

The curriculum is set up by compiling the modules and laying down the concrete aims, contents and purposes of the various seminars. A programme and additional details have been agreed upon. The following list contains the essential topics:

- Lexicographic entries, typology of dictionaries
- Dictionary research, metalexigraphy
- History of lexicography
- Research into dictionary usage
- Users' needs and preconditions of usage
- Critical research into dictionaries

- Functions of dictionaries
- Work in the lexicographic workshop
- Corpus lexicography, lexicographic tools
- Bilingual lexicography
- Lexicography for special purposes
- Knowledge of terminology and terminography
- Computational lexicography
- Electronic dictionaries, encyclopaedic dictionaries
- Corpus work
- Lexicology
- Etymology

Soft skills contain language modules and a computer science module. Aims, contents and special regulations for the courses are listed in the schedule in detail below and can be found on the EMLex website.

5. Schedule

The framework of the programme is shown in Figure 1.

- Notes on the 2nd semester (block seminars)

In the second semester, one university serves as the common study place for all the students. In consequence, the number of participants is limited; their travel is financed by the Erasmus Mundus programme, Erasmus+ or other programmes. The teachers of foreign universities stay for 4 to 7 days; their travel is financed by the EMLex consortium and the Erasmus Mundus programme. One block seminar lasts from Monday to Friday. Information about the exams is given each year by the responsible teachers who develop an organisation plan for the students.

- Notes on the 3rd semester

The in-depth module 1 is done via the EMLex Moodle platform, which is hosted by the University of Minho (Braga).

- Notes on the 4th semester

The ECTS points granted for the master thesis according to the individual university regulations allow for further opportunities (taking accompanying seminars, etc).

From 2010 to 2016, the EMLex programme and the journeys were financed by Erasmus+. The study programme started in winter term 2010 with five students from Erlangen and Nancy, and in the following years the number of students has gradually increased. In the first Erasmus Mundus cohort, however, we had 15 students, then 24 the following year, and 21 students started the EMLex in 2018. The summer terms were held in Maribor (2011), Barcelona (2012),

The main homepage of EMJMD-EMLex provides links to the participating partners and displays all the activities:
<https://www.emlex.phil.fau.eu/>





Universidade do Minho

	ECTS	Aims and contents
Winter term 1 st semester		During the first semester the students of the various universities should reach a comparable level of knowledge to enable international cooperation and joint studying as soon as possible.
	10	Basic module B1 (e-learning, approx. 4 semester hours): Basics of lexicography: dictionary usage, lexicographical entries, typology of dictionaries, lexicography and culture, theory and practice, computational lexicography.
	10	Basic module B2 (home module): A lexicographically-oriented module (approx. 4 semester hours) with university teachers participating in the master programme.
	5 5 5 5	Soft skills module (home module): B3a course: English (4-6 semester hours), if needed, see ⁽¹⁾ B3b course: German (4-6 semester hours), if needed, see ⁽¹⁾ B3c optional module: language course (Portuguese, Hungarian, Polish, Spanish, French, Italian) B3d optional module: computer science ⁽¹⁾ From section B3a to B3d: 5 ECTS are obligatory, 15 ECTS are possible, 10 ECTS can be credited.
	Sum: 25-30	During the first semester all students should acquire 25-30 ECTS points. Those who acquired only 25 ECTS points (i.e. students with a BA in German and English) have to acquire 35 ECTS in the second semester.

Erlangen (2013), Santiago de Compostela (2014), Braga (2015), Budapest (2016), Katowice (2017), Nancy (2018), and Rome (2019).

6. What is Erasmus Mundus?

The goals of the Erasmus Mundus programme are to improve the competitiveness of European universities, to become global players in higher education, to intensify the inner connection of European countries and people, to bring together students from different countries and to foster excellence and jointness in the educational sector. The objectives of the EACEA in Brussels are to support students with scholarships, to facilitate the organisation of joint programmes and to foster excellence in Europe. The demands of EACEA are to develop a stable Master programme, to guarantee joint teaching, to foster multilingualism, to ensure coherence of the consortium members and the permanent networking in the consortium (including with other Erasmus Mundus consortia), to provide additional value by the study programme, to execute perfect management in all areas, to enable students' participation, to develop worldwide promotion of the programme, to undertake quality assurance and monitoring, to assure sustainability, to establish networks with the private sector, and to award the students a Joint Degree, e.g. one diploma

for all graduates that is equally accepted by universities and employers all over Europe.

The EMLex consortium fulfilled these criteria during the first period of EMJMD funding (2015-2021) excellently. The application for a second period of EMJMD funding (2018-2024) was thus evaluated as the best among 121 applications in 2018. This presents a great challenge for the consortium to continue its work every day with the same enthusiasm and activity as we did in the past. The coordinator is only a coordinator, but the work is done by everyone in our group and was supported by the secretaries in Erlangen.

References

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Summer term 2 nd semester		The second semester provides an overview of the whole range of lexicography. Each university offers special knowledge. The local organisers change every year.
	5 each	<p><u>Advanced modules 1 to 10:</u> 10 modules as block seminars: All students have to travel. The teachers of the partner universities hold the block seminars, the local teacher holds his/her seminar throughout the semester. The students have to acquire 30 (35) ECTS, but may, however, acquire more; the organisation plan is set up according to special announcement.</p> <p>A1: Metalexicography A2: History of lexicography A3: Data modeling and representing data in digital lexicography A4: Research into dictionary use A5: Special field lexicography and terminology A6: Computational lexicography A7: Dictionaries and translation A8: Lexicography and lexicology A9: Planning and making a dictionary A10: Learner lexicography</p>
	Sum: 30	All students have to have 60 ECTS points after the first year.

Winter term 3 rd semester		The third semester is dedicated to specialisation and application of the knowledge acquired in the second semester; at the same time, the master thesis is prepared. The contents depend on the respective universities.
	10	<p><u>In-depth module 1:</u> Academic writing in lexicography: (a) Series of three lectures by teachers of different universities via video (online: e-learning). Oral exam with or written report by the students; (b) Writing a review on a dictionary. <u>In-depth module 2</u> (home module): Special topic (depending on the seminars offered at the home university). <u>Practical module</u> (home module): A four-to-twelve-week internship at a publisher or a company or a research institute (during the semester break or during the semester).</p>
	10	
	10	
Sum: 30		
Summer term 4 th semester	0-5 25-30 Sum: 30	Accompanying seminar to the Master thesis (home module). Master thesis
	Sum: 120	Total number of points

Figure 1: Study programme of the EMLex

Gouws, R.H. / Iriarte Sanromán, Á. 2015. The European Master in Lexicography in 2015: 2nd EMLex Colloquium on Lexicography and the international Summer Semester. *Lexicographica* 31: 358-362.

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