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About UNAM

UNAM is a Public, autonomous and secular university

The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) originated as the Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico, the first university in Latin America, established in 1551. By 1910 it became the National University of Mexico. In 1929, by obtaining its own Organic Law, it is established as Autonomous. The vital purposes of this public, autonomous and secular institution are education, research and the diffusion of scientific and humanistic knowledge.

As the country's leading center of knowledge and technology, UNAM is the largest and most important university in Mexico and has long been a protagonist in its history and formation. Many of its graduates have had definitive influence in the political and socio-economic configuration of the country. As a national institution, UNAM is a space in which liberty, respect, tolerance and dialogue are practiced every day. Plurality of ideas and thought are appreciated as an asset and never considered a weakness.

UNAM is recognized world-wide as an institution of excellence. According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities, it is the only Latin American university currently ranked among the 200 top universities in the world. In 2009, UNAM received the prestigious Prince of Asturias Award in recognition of its significant contributions to the field of Humanities. In addition to its main location in the country's capital, UNAM carries out its mission across many satellite campuses and

facilities in almost every state of the Mexican Republic and beyond its borders: in the United States, Canada and Spain. The beauty and uniqueness of its Mexico City campus –known as Ciudad Universitaria– have caused it to recently be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for its functionality and outstanding paintings, sculpture and architecture.

Currently UNAM serves 300,000 students, of which 24,000 are enrolled in graduate programs. To meet this huge demand, UNAM relies on a faculty of 35,057 educators, of which 11,536 are full-time professors.

Programa de Maestría y Doctorado en Lingüística

The Programa de Maestría y Doctorado en Lingüística offers three degree programs: Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics, Master's Degree in Hispanic Linguistic and Ph. D. in Linguistics

Master's Degree Program in Applied Linguistics

Applied Linguistics arose as a discipline at UNAM in the 1970s. It is characterized by its great scope of research topics and for enjoying both national and international recognition, through its high profile in professional associations, international congresses, research projects and publications. Research topics in applied linguistics vary depending on its interdisciplinary relationships with such fields as descriptive linguistics, pedagogy, sociology, psychology,

anthropology, neurology and informatics, among others.

The main purpose of the Master's Degree Program in Applied Linguistics is to provide strong theoretical foundations, as well as the means for understanding and achieving solutions to problems with regard to both language as a system and to particular languages. Applied Linguistics is a discipline deeply entrenched with the needs of society and it conceives and integrates its research and findings as cyclical processes that establish strong relations between theory and application.

Curriculum

The Master's Program in Applied Linguistics provides students with a broad and solid formation, advancing their research skills with a specific focus on phenomena associated with the use of language in context. Students acquire specialized skills and expert knowledge that can be applied in a wide range of professional and academic areas, including language teaching and learning, language politics, language planning, translation, etc.

Applicant's profile

Applicants interested in this program should satisfy specific background requirements in order to be selected:

- › A definite interest in the study of language, a personal and social commitment to it, and future prospects in the field.
- › Previous professional training that has put them in contact with some of the problems and issues related to linguistics and language use.

- › An ability to propose and develop an adequate research project within one of the research lines of the Program.
- › Qualified language, writing and computer skills.
- › Appropriate mastery of the Spanish language, especially with regard to reading comprehension and academic writing.

Graduate's profile

A graduate from the Master's Program in Applied Linguistics will be prepared to carry out field based research as well as collaborative research under the direction of specialists. Similarly, among other professional activities related to the use of language, he or she will be capable of working and teaching in institutions of higher education, in the fields of second language instruction, designing of teaching materials, translation, editorial work and linguistic policy planning, etc.

Graduates will also be prepared to continue their studies in our Ph. D. in Linguistics Program in order to hone their research skills at the highest level.

Obtaining the Master's Degree

Provided the student secures the approval of the Academic Committee, he/she may opt for one of the following options for obtaining the Master Degree, all of which require oral examination:

- › Master's Thesis
- › Critical essay
- › Research article accepted for publication

Duration of studies and credit requirements

The Master's Program in Applied Linguistics is designed to be completed in four semesters and consists of 86 credits of which 54 are distributed in eleven required academic activities, while 32 credits are distributed in four elective courses.

The Program is organized and structured into a) formative academic activities, and b) research-oriented academic activities.

The objective of the formative academic activities is to provide students with the basic analytical tools for understanding the fundamentals of language systems through specific courses (Phonetics and Phonology, Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics), and to introduce the students to research and design within the main axes of Applied Linguistics (Psycholinguistics and Sociolinguistics).

The research-oriented academic activities, on the other hand, are carried out through a dynamic process that involves the students, their individual advisor and the larger academic community, mainly through personal advisory sessions and the presentation of research progress papers at three compulsory Master's Colloquia beginning in the second semester of the program.

Curricular overview

Semester I

- › Phonetics and Phonology
- › Syntax
- › Semantics
- › Research in Applied Linguistics

Semester II

- › Psycholinguistics
- › Sociolinguistics
- › Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis
- › Research seminar I

Semester III

- › Research seminar II
- › 3 elective courses

Semester IV

- › Research seminar III
- › 1 elective course

Master's Degree Program in Hispanic Linguistics

The Master's Degree Program in Hispanic Linguistics was launched in the 1970s rooted in the strong Romance and Hispanic philological tradition of UNAM. Its mission is to prepare specialists in the Spanish language from the perspective of contemporary Linguistics. Various topics are explored within the diversified research areas of the Graduate Program in Linguistics at UNAM: the morphology, syntax and semantics of Spanish, its evolution in time, Spanish geographical and social diversification, Spanish oral acquisition, and teaching of Spanish literacy, among others.

Curriculum

The Master's Program in Hispanic Linguistics provides students with a broad, solid foundation in both research and teaching at a high level. Similarly, it inculcates the aptitudes, skills and capabilities for practicing linguistics related professions in a wide array of

scenarios involving the study, use and teaching of the Spanish language.

Applicant's profile

Applicants interested in this program should satisfy specific background requirements in order to be selected:

- › A definite interest in the study of Spanish or Linguistics, a personal and social commitment to the language, and prospects for development in the field.
- › Previous professional or academic training in basic or introductory knowledge of Spanish or general Linguistics.
- › An explicit interest in research and the abilities required to carry out research projects. The applicant must also have highly developed verbal-logical reasoning skills and the capacity to discern conceptual hierarchies, in addition to an inquisitive and critical spirit.
- › Appropriate mastery of the Spanish language, especially with regard to reading comprehension and academic writing.
- › Sufficient mastery of English in order to comprehend the required reading of academic texts throughout the program.

Graduate profile

The graduate from the Master's Program in Hispanic Linguistics is a specialist trained in the skills of high level research, capable of proposing and carrying out rigorous research in the fields of Hispanic Linguistics and Linguistics in general. Similarly, the graduate is prepared to teach at institutions of higher education and to perform the duties

necessary for the analysis of language use. Graduates will also be prepared to continue their studies in the Ph. D. Program in Linguistics in order to hone their research skills at the highest level.

Obtaining the Master's Degree

Provided the student secures the approval of the Academic Committee, he/she may opt for one of the following options for obtaining the master's degree, all of which involve an oral examination:

- › Master's Thesis
- › Critical essay
- › Research article accepted for publication

Duration of studies and credit requirements

The curriculum of the Master's Program in Hispanic Linguistics is designed to be completed in four semesters and is comprised of 86 credits, 38 of which are covered by required courses. Eight additional credits are fulfilled by one elective course on language variation (with two options) and the remaining 40 credits are covered by five elective courses. Each course equals eight credits, while research seminars equal two credits.

The curriculum is designed around two kinds of academic activities: academic formation activities and research-oriented activities. The academic formation activities are taught in seminar format and deal with theoretical issues. These courses are by and large compulsory and are designed to provide students with basic analytic tools of the fundamentals of language organization (Phonetics and

Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Semantics) and with an introduction to the study of the diachronic, synchronic and social variation in language. The research-oriented academic activities, on the other hand, are carried out through a dynamic process that involves the students, their individual advisor and the larger academic community, mainly through personal advisory sessions and the presentation of research progress papers at three compulsory Master's Colloquia beginning in the second semester of the program.

Curricular overview

Semester I

- › Phonology
- › Morphology
- › Linguistic Variation (Option 1: Diachronic Variation; Option 2: Synchronic Variation)

Semester II

- › Syntax
- › Semantics
- › Research seminar I
- › 1 Elective course

Semester III

- › Research seminar II
- › 3 elective courses

Semester IV

- › Research seminar III
- › 1 elective course

Ph.D. Program in Linguistics

The Ph.D. Program in Linguistics at UNAM provides the highest degree of specialization in linguistics research and is designed for the specialization of students in one of the following fields: Hispanic Linguistics, Applied

Linguistics, Theoretical Linguistics or Linguistics of Indigenous Languages.

The main objective of the program is to prepare specialists capable of carrying out higher education teaching, original research and performing at the highest academic and professional level. In concrete terms, the Program aims to train independent researchers who possess the skills set required to coordinate, lead and advise teams of professionals of language within research and educational institutions. Graduates, moreover, will be prepared to apply their knowledge across a wide array of professional fields related to the use and study of language and of specific languages as well.

During the course of their studies, Ph.D. students will develop the cognitive skills and abilities required to perform the following tasks:

- › Identify and solve problems from the perspective of Linguistics and its particular criteria.
- › Critically analyze, assess and write articles that contribute to the specialized literature on Linguistics.
- › Resolve methodological problem inherent to the discipline.
- › Lead and/or participate in interdisciplinary research teams that carry out original and cutting edge research within Linguistics or neighboring disciplines.
- › Participate in teams seeking solutions to concrete language use problems in their immediate social environment.

Applicant's profile

Applicants interested in the Ph.D. program should satisfy specific

background requirements in order to be selected:

- › A defined vocation for research and a clear interest in the study of language in one of the four fields of knowledge embraced by the Program, as well as a personal and social commitment to language, and prospects for development in one of these fields.
- › Previous training as a linguist, which has given them the required knowledge, skill and abilities within the field of interest, including previous experience in the tasks and duties of linguistic research.
- › He/she should be able to propose, plan and develop an adequate research project in one of the research lines of the Program.
- › Sufficient mastery of the language or languages to be studied.
- › Appropriate mastery of the Spanish language, especially with regard to reading comprehension and academic writing.

Graduate profile

A Linguistics Ph.D. holder is prepared to carry out both research and educational activities in higher education institutions. He or she will possess the specific linguistic criteria and skills required to assemble, advise and lead interdisciplinary research teams in private and public institutions within the field of general Linguistics and of particular languages. Depending on the graduate's specialization, he/she will be able to practice their profession in the fields of education, language teaching, medicine, language engineering and technology, advertising,

communication and tourism, and legal forensics, among others.

Requirements for obtaining degree

- › Meet all curricular requirements.
- › Conclude doctoral dissertation and secure written approval of thesis advisor, the advisory committee and the Academic Committee to present oral examination.
- › Secure approval of dissertation from the members of the examination jury appointed by the Academic Committee.
- › Receive at least four votes of approval from the examination jury.
- › Present and approve doctorate examination oral defense.

Curriculum

The curriculum of the Ph.D. Program in Linguistics at UNAM is designed to be completed in eight semesters. It is an advisory program, which emphasizes the student's preparation through the development of a research that will constitute his/her final dissertation. This is carried out through close work with his/her personal faculty advisor who is the thesis' mentor as well. During the dissertation research, the student has the support of an advisory committee consisting of the main advisor and two additional professors, who aid the student's development and guide the proper evolution of the dissertation research and writing.

Through constant dialogue with specialists in his/her field of interest, the Ph.D. in Linguistics advisory system guides the student through the

various facets of an advanced research project, thereby providing him/her with first-hand opportunities for learning. The dissertation must lie within one of the areas of research of his/her advisor.

In addition to the doctoral dissertation, applicants must carry out other academic activities, including: 1) attending periodic meetings with the personal advisor and the advisory committee; 2) participation in thematic seminars and the Annual Ph. D. Colloquium, which constitutes the forum for presenting the progress of the dissertation project; 3) attending extracurricular courses that –per the opinion of the advisory committee– are considered essential for the student’s formation; 4) approval of the Ph.D. Candidate’s oral examination, in which he or she demonstrates to a jury that he/she has acquired the knowledge, skills and capabilities of a researcher and that the doctoral dissertation is near conclusion; and 5) submit an article consisting of a synthesis of the doctoral dissertation for publication in a specialized journal.

Curricular overview

Semester I

- › Proposal of Advisory Committee by the student
- › Working sessions with the Advisory Committee
- › One extracurricular course
- › Participation in the Annual Ph.D. Colloquium

Semester II

- › One extracurricular course
- › Participation in Thematic Seminar

Semester III

- › Working sessions with Advisory Committee

- › Second participation in Annual Ph.D. Colloquium
- ##### Semester IV
- › Working sessions with Advisory Committee
 - › Second participation in Thematic Seminar
- ##### Semester V
- › Presentation of Ph.D. Candidate’s oral examination
- ##### Semester VI
- › Delivery of article for submission to a specialized journal
- ##### Semester VII
- › Delivery of dissertation draft
- ##### Semester VIII
- › Ph.D. Degree oral defense

The Graduate Program in Linguistics: Research areas

The Graduate Program in Linguistics at UNAM offers a wide array of research areas (or lines) that include the history of the Spanish language, Linguistic Theory, Sociolinguistics and the application of linguistic knowledge in the design of second language pedagogical materials and research protocols.

Students are expected to do their thesis or dissertations on the topics of expertise of the program’s advisors. These topics are organized in four fields: Hispanic Linguistics, Theoretical Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and Linguistic of Indigenous Languages.

Research lines in Applied Linguistics

- 1) Language planning and policy
 - › Micro-planning of Language

- › Language Planning Policy in Education
- › Linguistic Rights
- › Mass Media
- › Transculturality, Identity and Power

2) Terminology, Lexicography and Translation

Projects:

- › Linguistic Aspects of Specialized Language Terminology
- › Specialized Translation
- › The Architecture of Specialized Texts
- › Dictionary Use in the Classroom
- › Studies on Available Lexicon

3) Translation and Translation Studies

Projects:

- › Translation of Proust’s Metaphors: a Case Study
- › Anthology of Short Stories Translated into Spanish from German, French, Greek, English, Italian, Japanese, and Portuguese
- › Design of a Diagnostic Testing Battery for Assessing Grammar in English, Spanish, French and Italian to be used in Certificate Courses for Translation Teachers

4) Language Teaching, Teacher Training and Applied Linguistics in Digital Settings

5) Bilingualism

Projects:

- › Bilingualism and Cognition

6) Intercultural Studies

Projects:

- › Cultural Expressions and Their Cognitive Grounding
- › Culture as System and Process

- › Intercultural Studies vs. Transcultural Phenomena

7) Reading comprehension Projects:

- › English area:
- › English Reading Course
- › Reading Comprehension Course for Students of Engineering
- › Reading Comprehension Course for Lawyers and Law Students
- › Reading Comprehension Course for Political Science
- › Design of Prerequisite Examinations
- › French area:
- › French Reading Course
- › Science Reading Course
- › Italian area:
- › Italian Reading Course
- › Portuguese area:
- › Portuguese Reading Course

8) Second Language Acquisition Projects:

- › Learning a Closely Related Language: Portuguese for Spanish Speakers
- › The Acquisition of Verbal Aspect in a Second Language
- › Analysis of Mastery and Acquisition Sequence of Narrative Tenses in Spanish as a Second Language

9) Autonomous Learning Projects:

- › Design of Materials for Development and Follow up of Meta-cognitive Processes for Self-directed Learning
- › Design of Material to Aid Autonomous Work with Video Documents in Self-access Centers
- › Design of a Course to Train Multimedia Center Advisors

- › Training of CELE Multimedia Center Advisors: Training Seminar for CELE Teachers Who Wish to Work in the Multimedia Center

10) Assessment

- Projects:
- › Evaluation of Teaching: Report of an Experience in CELE
 - › Raising the Status of English Teaching on Campus
 - › Reflections on Assessment

11) Pragmatics and Semantics

- Projects:
- › Language and Migration
 - › Figurative Language and Theory of Mind
 - › Pragmatic Connectors in Spanish
 - › Applications of the Theory of Relevance

12) Teacher Training

- Project:
- › Restructuring of the Teacher Training Course

13) Discourse Analysis

- Project:
- › Analysis of Narrative Discourse as a Modality of the Mind

14) Language, Culture and Literature

- Projects:
- › Cultural Variations in Formal Learning Contexts
 - › Evaluation of Inter-cultural Competence in Belgium Middle Schools
 - › Intercultural Competence in the Teaching of Foreign Languages

15) Semiotics

- Projects:
- › Processes of Interpretation, Cognition and Language

Lines of research in the fields of Hispanic Linguistics and Theoretical Linguistics

1) Descriptive Linguistics

Projects:

- › Educated Lexicon in Major Spanish-Speaking Cities
- › The New Grammar of the Spanish Language (Royal Academy of Spanish)
- › Adverbial Nexus in Educated Speech in Latin America and Spanish Cities
- › Discourse Markers in Mexican Spanish
- › Argumentation in Spanish.
- › Subordinative Nouns in Educated Speech in Four Latin America Cities: Buenos Aires, Bogota, Lima and Mexico City

2) Historical Linguistics

Projects:

- › Origins, Evolution and Consolidation of Spanish in New Spain
- › Historical Syntax of Spanish
- › Historical Syntax and Grammaticalization Processes of the Spanish Language
- › Nineteenth Century: The Third Stage in the Evolution of Spanish
- › Roots and Development of Spanish in Mexico
- › Phonological Reconstruction of Spanish in America
- › Language, Culture and Literature in Eighteenth Century Mexico: Study Materials
- › Teaching and Assessment of Literacy Culture: History and Perspectives

3) The Teaching of Spanish as a Mother Tongue

Projects:

- › Teaching of a Mother Tongue: Spanish Teaching in Mexico
- › Diagnostics of Spanish Linguistic and Communicative Competence
- › Scholastic Dictionary

4) Linguistic Variation: Dialectology and Sociolinguistics

Projects:

- › Spanish in the Americas
- › Mexican Spanish
- › The Spanish of Indigenous Mexicans: Study Materials
- › Sociolinguistics of Spanish in Mexico
- › Sociolinguistic Variation and Change in Mexico City Spanish
- › Digitalization and Transcription of Educated and Popular Spanish in Mexico City

5) Language Acquisition

Projects:

- › Language Acquisition: Language as a Dynamic System.
- › Early Stages in Language Acquisition
- › Cognitive Strategies in the Acquisition of Spanish

6) Cognitive Linguistics

Projects:

- › Three Valence Predicates in Spanish: A Semantic-Syntactic Analysis

- › Middle Voice, Transitivity, Datives and Possessives

7) Lexicology and Terminology

Projects:

- › Educated Lexicon in Principal Spanish-Speaking Cities

8) Acquisition of Written Language

Projects:

- › Student Writing in Basic Education: An Analysis of the Evolution of Knowledge of Written Language

9) Computational Linguistics and Corpus Linguistics

Projects:

- › Computerized Corpus of Educated Spanish

Lines of research in the field of Linguistics of Indigenous Languages

1) Descriptive Linguistics

Projects:

- › Grammar and Orality.
- › Guiding Processes and Linguistic Structures in Different Registers of Uto-Aztecan languages
- › Phonological patterns in San Pablo Güilá Zapotec.
- › Semantic-Pragmatic Causes in the Selection of Complements in Yaqui
- › Ayutla Mixe Grammar with Emphasis on the Codification of Temporal and Spatial Relations

- › Totonaco Morphosyntax: Nominal Classification, Diverse Types of Predicates

- › The Vitality of Indigenous Languages in Mexico: A Study in Three Contexts

2) Historical Linguistics

Projects:

- › Etymological Studies of Náhuatl
- › A Náhuatl Document from Izhuatán, Guatemala

3) Philology and Philological History

Projects:

- › Zapotec Language and Culture: Development of Zapotec Writing During the Colonial Period
- › Transliteration and Philological Study of Alonso de Molina's Arte de la Lengua Mexicana
- › Papantla Totonaco Texts
- › The Cantares Mexicanos Manuscript
- › Corpus of Ibero-American Bilingual Vocabularies (XVI-XVIII Centuries)

4) Comparative Linguistics

Projects:

- › Spatial Language and Cognition in Mesoamerica
- › Morphosyntactic Aspects of Uto-Aztecan Languages
- › Ethnographic Observations for Linguistic Works

All research lines can be consulted online at: 

www.cele.unam.mx

and <http://filologicas.unam.mx/clhlinv.htm>

The Best Option

Ten reasons to study with us:

1. Emphasis in research and application of linguistic knowledge.
2. Forty-four faculty advisors with national and international recognition in addition to guest professors from other prestigious institutions.
3. Three graduating options: thesis, critical essay or article accepted for publication.
4. Offering of elective course in constant renovation.
5. Great diversity of topics, theories and methods within more than twenty research lines.
6. Close supervision and help from our faculty advisors.
7. Solid academic formation and support for attendance at linguistic conferences, both national and international.
8. Optimal research infrastructure (specialized libraries, Internet, videoconference halls, etc.).
9. Fellowships through CONACYT and other funds available for research sojourns, field studies and attendance at academic events.
10. Ciudad Universitaria, recently declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (2009), UNAM, offers a wide array of academic, artistic, sports and recreational activities without cost to students. Additionally, Mexico City is one of the most important cultural centers in Latin America. It is home to hundreds of museums and parks, as well as colonial architecture, archeological sites and other expression of both Mexican history and its enriching intercultural present.

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