

**MA (with thesis)**Timeline (24 months)

Year 1, September – April (Fall and Winter semesters)

- Coursework (7000, 7001, plus three other graduate courses).
- Select a supervisor. (The Department assigns your supervisor(s) when you are admitted to the program.)
- Select a thesis topic, in collaboration with your supervisor, and submit the *Topic Approval* form (500 words).

By the end of May

- Write and submit the thesis Research Proposal (20 pages double space).

By the end of June

- Proposal presentation, generally scheduled 3 weeks after submitting the written proposal (pass/fail).

Year 2, including the last two months of Year 1 (14 months)

- Obtain ICEHR approval (if needed).
- Completion of research.
- Thesis writing, submission for examination, revisions (if needed), and final submission.

Additional information

Application for ICEHR (ethics) approval

- Generally will require the equivalent of 2 weeks full time work to prepare for submission.
- Allow at least 2-3 weeks for the committee to review the application (it can take longer). If research is dependent on funding, the money will not be released until ethics approval has been granted

Research design

- Longitudinal studies are usually lengthy but not intensive, and should ideally start as early as possible after the project is approved (by the department, and by ICEHR).
- Group/cross-sectional studies can take place over much shorter periods of time, and at higher intensity.
- Studies that are mostly within the conceptual/theoretical realm are typically easier to plan and/or to conduct, although they may be the most challenging at times, always depending on the topic and related background within the relevant literature.

**Thesis writing**

The research proposal offers an opportunity to address at least parts of the literature background and methodology, and most of this writing is typically used as part of the thesis. Methodology should be updated each time decisions have to be made about research design and implementation. In total, an MA thesis generally corresponds to 6-8 months of work, full time. During this period you will meet regularly with your supervisor(s). MA theses are usually lengthy documents (80+ pages, often closer to 100 pages or slightly more), depending on the topic area, the amount of data to be included, and the level of analysis.

**Thesis submission**

This is a relatively simple process, all done electronically, once the thesis is complete and ready for examination. The thesis submission requires approvals (on signed forms) from your supervisor(s) and the Head of the Department, who will forward the electronic documents to

higher administration There are two examiners, an internal examiner, who will be chosen from within the Department of Linguistics at Memorial University, and an external examiner, who will be a specialist in the relevant field at a different institution. The identity of both examiners is kept confidential until the examination process is complete.

**Revisions and final submission**

Examiners commonly recommend a number of revisions be made to a thesis. The supervisor reviews these and provides the student with guidance as to which recommendations are required before the thesis will be approved for final submission. Generally, revisions are relatively minor and can be completed within days or weeks. With the supervisor's approval that the necessary revisions have been made, and the relevant paperwork completed to that effect, the final submission is made electronically. In the event that examiners request extensive revisions, a thesis may be required to be resubmitted for examination.