

Sample BA Topics

Students are expected to come up with their own topics according to their interests. Here are some examples to give you an idea of the kinds of topics which are suitable in scope for a BA thesis.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

- E-Portfolio in the EFL Classroom - An Evaluation of E-Portfolio Tasks in Secondary School
- ICC Simulation Projects in EFL Teacher Training - a Survey-Based Study of Student Perspectives
- Learning Vocabulary Using the Duolingo Language Application
- The U.S. Embassy School Election Project 2012: Exploring Intercultural Learning Processes in a Web-Based EFL Project
- Differentiating Listening Activities in the EFL Classroom (Year 10 Realschule) – The Use of Podcasts

For some more examples of exam topics from the area of TEFL see: <http://www.leuphana.de/ueber-uns/personen/torben-schmidt/abschlussarbeiten.html>

TEFL and Linguistics (primary focus on TEFL)

Note: If you would like someone from the TEFL section of the institute as your first examiner, at least 60% of the thesis should concentrate on questions of TEFL. If the linguistics elements are the main focus, please approach a linguistics colleague. A TEFL colleague can be requested as a second examiner.

- Teachers' Perspectives on Multilingual Learners in the EFL Classroom: An Interview Study
- Multilingualism Counts! – Using Skills Learned from L1 and L2 Acquisition to Facilitate Third Language Learning
- From Bilingualism to Tertiary Language Learning - Characteristics, Processes, Potentials

TEFL and Literature (primary focus on TEFL)

Note: If you would like someone from the TEFL section of the institute as your first examiner, at least 60% of the thesis should concentrate on questions of TEFL. If the literature elements are the main focus, please approach a literature colleague. A TEFL colleague can be requested as a second examiner.

- Weblogs on Young Adult Fiction at Secondary School and their Effect on Reading and Writing Processes.
- School Desegregation and the Story of Ruby Bridges – Intercultural learning through picture books in the foreign language classroom.
- Evaluating Graphic Novels for the Secondary EFL Classroom - Potentials, Criteria, Competences, Examples

TEFL and Area Studies (primary focus on TEFL)

Note: If you would like someone from the TEFL section of the institute as your first examiner, at least 60% of the thesis should concentrate on questions of TEFL. If the area studies elements are the main focus, please approach an area studies colleague. A TEFL colleague can be requested as a second examiner.

- Intercultural communicative competence right from the start? An analysis of EFL textbooks for primary education.
- The U.S. Embassy School Election Project 2012: Exploring Intercultural Learning Processes in a Web-Based EFL Project.
- Teaching Rap Culture in the Secondary EFL Classroom – Approaches, Challenges, and Chances
- An Intercultural Approach to Bend it like Beckham

Linguistics

- Listenership in learner-native speaker discourse
- Topic management in EFL tandem interactions
- Learner requests and development over time
- Responding to thanks in English and German
- Tag questions in lingua franca discourse
- Corpora data vs. questionnaire data in researching language in use
- Party small talk in English and German: A questionnaire study
- Greetings in sit-coms and in everyday interaction
- Responses to thanks among males and females in Canadian English

Linguistics and TEFL (primary focus on linguistics)

Note: If you would like Anne Barron or Emily Black to be your first examiner, at least 60% of the thesis should concentrate on questions of linguistic theory and analysis. If the TEFL elements are the main focus, please approach a TEFL colleague. Anne Barron or Emily Black can be requested as second examiners.

- Intercultural pragmatic research and the development of intercultural competence
- Request representation in Redline: A cross-cultural and interlanguage pragmatics appraisal
- Greetings in “How I met your mother?” and their application in the EFL classroom
- Discourse structure in the EFL classroom
- The effect of gender on learner participation in the EFL classroom
- Feedback in the EFL classroom
- Directives across different school forms

Literature

- Intertextuality in postmodern films. An analysis of *Edward Scissorhands* (1990) and *Shrek* (2001) as postmodern adaptations of *The Beauty and the Beast*
- History Repeating Itself? Ancient Roman Elements in Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* Trilogy (2008-2010)
- Disney in Wonderland: A Comparative Analysis of Disney's *Alice in Wonderland* film Adaptations of 1951 and 2010
- Outsiders in Young Adult Fiction: An Analysis of Sharon Flake's Issue Novel *The Skin I'm In* (1998)
- The Potential of Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* (2006) as a wordless picturebook
- An Emma no one will like? A comparison of the character of “Emma” in the *Meridian* (1996) and the BBC (2009) film adaptations of Jane Austen's novel
- Malevolent Characters in English Animal Fiction

Literature and TEFL (primary focus on literature)

Note: If you would like Emer O'Sullivan or Ulrike Köhler to be your first examiner, at least 60% of the thesis has to concentrate on questions of literary theory, analysis etc. If the TEFL elements are the main focus, please approach a TEFL colleague. Emer O'Sullivan or Ulrike Köhler can be requested as second examiners.

- Literature in the EFL-classroom – Adaptation or Original? An Analysis of Different Versions of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*
- Using the European Picturebook Collection in the primary classroom as a means of promoting language awareness
- Developing Intercultural Competence with Picturebooks
- Literature adaptations in TEFL: Nick Hornby's *Slam* adapted for a 9th-10th class
- Working with poetry in the foreign language classroom

Area Studies

- The Death Penalty: A controversial form of punishment in the U.S.A.
- Racial stereotypes in contemporary U.S. sitcoms
- The Christian Right and their attempts to change America's public education system
- No Child Left Behind: Promises, problems, and possibilities
- The Relocation and Internment of Japanese and German Civilians
- The Reality of Disney's *Pocahontas*: Fact and Fiction
- Black Women's Activism in the United States
- Aotearoa: A reflection of Maori culture and history in Witi Ihimaera's *Whale Rider*

Area Studies and TEFL (primary focus on Area Studies)

Note: If you want an Area Studies colleague as your first examiner, at least 60% of the thesis has to concentrate on questions of area studies. . If the TEFL elements are the main focus, please approach a TEFL colleague. Sabrina Völz or Maria Moss can be requested as second examiners.

- Drew Hayden Taylor's *The Berlin Blues*: Debunking stereotypes in the EFL classroom
- Teaching Rap culture in the Secondary EFL classroom: Approaches, challenges and chances
- An intercultural approach to *Bend it like Beckham*.
- School desegregation and *The Story of Ruby Bridges*—Intercultural learning in the foreign language classroom.
- Changing perspectives, changing methodology: From *Landeskunde* to area studies