

# COBRA REPORT

## Study programme: Master of Linguistics and Literature: English (Leuven), Master en langue et littérature françaises (Leuven)

Drawn up on: December 16 2019

KU Leuven uses the [COBRA method](#) to work on the quality of its study programmes. In this report the programme committee reports every four years on the quality of its programme(s) and describes the identified strength(s) and planned action(s) of its programme(s). Master of Linguistics and Literature: English (Leuven), Master en langue et littérature françaises (Leuven).

### Strengths of the study programme(s)

The MA programmes “Linguistics and Literature: English” and “langue et littérature françaises” offer a wide range of modules dealing with linguistics and literary studies of, respectively English and French. The students appreciate the opportunity to choose modules depending on their own research interests and educational aims. This also applies to their selection of a topic for the MAt thesis from an extensive list of topics.

Both students and lecturers value the opportunities for interaction, among students as well as between students and the teaching staff, which the programme makes possible by means of active teaching and learning methods in the different modules as well as through the mid-term MAt thesis presentations. The latter enable students to adjust their research after feedback from the teaching staff.

Students are also pleased with the - curricular and extra-curricular – activities (such as lecture series and field trips) that are organized by the staff and that encourage them to broaden or deepen their research interests.

### Planned actions

The profile of the MA programmes in linguistics and literature is insufficiently pronounced, in particular as concerns the distinction from the third year of the BA programme. Several of the more specialized modules of BA3 would fit better within the MA programmes, while some of the more methodological modules of the master would be better suited for BA3 level. The external COBRA-assessors also pointed out that the programmes lack any sustained reflection about the intrinsic relation between the disciplines of linguistics and literary studies. Instead the disciplines are offered in separate modules only. Finally, the MA programmes were judged by students to be relatively light compared to the BA programme. In the spring of 2019, the POC set up a committee to assess possibilities for programme reform that will address these remarks.

Lecturers also note that they are not always aware of the assessment modes used in other modules or for other languages. In the spring of 2019, the POC has mapped all modes of assessment in the

This COBRA report is a result of the past four-year COBRA cycle (2015-2019). Each study programme that participated in the COBRA cycle has drawn up this document, which specifies the strengths and planned actions of the study programme. These strengths and actions result from the dialogue between the programme and its stakeholders (primary actors, alumni, professional field and international experts from the discipline). This report aims to give a comprehensive indication of the study programme's realised quality. The COBRA report will be made available in the programme guide, so it will be accessible to the public.



More information on COBRA: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/quality/cobra-english/quality-assurance-method>  
 More information on the quality of education: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/quality>  
 KU Leuven educational terminology: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/educational-glossary/educational-glossary>



programmes and passed them on to the curriculum commissions so they can ensure an even spread of assessment modes.

The POC also investigates how the programmes' professional orientation can be strengthened, without, however, sacrificing their disciplinary emphasis. The POC has set up a committee to formulate concrete suggestions in this respect.

Finally, the POC has taken action to make the international dimension of the programmes more visible as well as the possibilities for international mobility and exchange.