



Evaluation report: Department of Linguistics and Philology, General Linguistics masters' education

Introduction

The evaluation process had three main stages: a report was written which set out the strategy that guides course and programme development within the subject area, and which addressed systematically compliance with each of the articles within the Higher Education Ordinance. This report was read and evaluated by the assessment panel, who then interviewed members of the subject area and wrote their report. Members of the subject area were given the opportunity to clarify certain issues of fact within the draft of this report before the final version was published. The present document gives the result of the subject area's response to the recommendations of the report in terms of a planned series of concrete actions.

Main conclusions of the evaluation

The main conclusion of the evaluation is that the subject area fulfils the general goals of the Högskoleförordningens examensmål. While the assessment panel was not particularly clear about its conclusions for the masters' level education, their comments about the need for better integration give a clear signal about the need to build on the progression from undergraduate to masters' level education.

Strengths of education

The strength of the education offered by the General Linguistics subject area is identified as the close coupling between research and teaching. The teaching staff are personally committed to the scientific domain, and the students are involved in real and current scientific issues.

Identified weaknesses and areas for development

The general linguistics masters' education needs a lot of work. Most masters' level courses offered by the subject area are co-taught with undergraduate courses. While this does have some advantages that the assessment panel identified—the undergraduate students in particular benefit from having higher level students in their classes—this is not a pedagogically desirable structure for masters' students themselves. It also has the disadvantage to the department and university that most undergraduate students do not carry



on to do a masters' in Uppsala as well, since there are very limited course offerings on top of the courses they have already done as undergraduates.

Priority development area

The masters' courses as a whole are a priority development area for the subject, and the entire course offering is in need of an overhaul.

Planned measures and development efforts.

The general linguistics subject area will undertake to develop a masters' education programme which is separate from undergraduate teaching and which builds upon it. The goal is to have sufficient course offerings it will be possible to retain high quality graduates from the undergraduate course, as well as attracting more masters' students from elsewhere. We believe that this is a feasible goal, and that the strengths of the subject area, particularly in the domain of research, will make a masters' level education in linguistics at Uppsala an attractive proposition to students.



Språkvetenskapliga fakultetsnämndens slutsats och kommentar

Underlagen för såväl kandidat- som masterexamen behöver kompletteras för att visa att utbildningen uppfyller examensordningen genom att tydligt visa hur lärandemål, undervisning och examination leder till måluppfyllelse. Nämnden bedömer att denna komplettering med fördel kan göras som del av det utvecklingsarbete av den avancerade nivån som man föreslår i utvärderingsrapporten.