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## Making sense of linguistic data

TU Darmstadt: New master's degree programme Data and Discourse Studies taught in English

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Darmstadt, May 28, 2019. Ever larger amounts of data are being generated in science and industry. Experts are needed in market analysis or communication departments, who can understand and process this data and convert it into comprehensible texts that are appropriate for specific target groups. The new international master's programme in *Data and Discourse Studies* at the TU Darmstadt aims to impart precisely this knowledge.

The new master's programme will start in the winter semester 2019/2020. The interdisciplinary master's programme in Data and Discourse Studies, which will be taught in English, was developed at the Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies at the TU Darmstadt. It is a two year programme and results in a Master of Arts degree. It is open to students with a bachelor's degree in any of the humanities or social sciences.

At the core of the new degree programme are the methods of discourse analysis with a focus on research data. Discourse analysis deals with the relationship between language, knowledge and society. Linguistic analysis will be combined with historical, sociological, philosophical and also political science research. In addition, there is the close intermeshing with digital and information technology approaches. Data and Discourse Studies is about how this research data is collected, organised, analysed, and interpreted. One example cited by Marcus Müller, Professor of Digital Linguistics at the TU Darmstadt, is the business world where computer scientists are working with ever larger amounts of data. Market analysis or communications departments therefore need experts who can understand and process this data and convert it into target group-specific texts. "These are exactly the people we will be training with our new degree program," Müller explains.

Teams from the language and literary sciences of the TU are collaborating closely with the department's historians, philosophers, sociologists and political scientists for the master's programme, and jointly developed the ideas for the new degree course. "No other university in the world offers a comparable interdisciplinary approach," Professor Müller emphasises. TU Darmstadt is an important centre, especially for digital methodological access to research data in the humanities and social sciences.

The degree programme, which will be taught in English, will be research-oriented and will be based, among other things, on data from the department's existing research projects. However, the students will also carry out small research tasks themselves. A stay abroad is planned at one

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of TU Darmstadt's partner universities, for example in Aarhus or Shanghai, in the third semester. "We consciously want to attract international students. Not just because of the TU's internationalisation strategy, but also because cultural influences play a decisive role in all the subjects and disciplines taught in our department and especially in discourse analysis," says Müller.

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**More information:**

<https://www.linglit.tu-darmstadt.de/studiumlinglit/studieninteressierte/dds/index.de.jsp>

**About TU Darmstadt**

The Technische Universität (TU) Darmstadt is one of Germany's leading technical universities. TU Darmstadt incorporates diverse science cultures to create its characteristic profile. The focus is set on engineering and natural sciences, which cooperate closely with outstanding humanities and social sciences. We are enjoying a worldwide reputation for excellent research in our highly-relevant, focused profile areas: cybersecurity, internet and digitalisation, nuclear physics, fluid dynamics and heat- and mass transfer, energy systems and new materials for product innovation. We dynamically develop our portfolio of research and teaching, innovation and transfer, in order to continue opening up important opportunities for the future of society. Our 312 professors, 4,450 scientific and administrative employees and close to 26,000 students devote their talents and best efforts to this goal. Together with Goethe University Frankfurt and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, TU Darmstadt has formed the strategic Rhine-Main Universities alliance.

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