

## Contact

### Center Speakers

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### Center Coordinator

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### Associated Faculty Members

Linguists from both the Faculty of Modern Languages (FB10) and the Faculty of Linguistics, Cultures and Arts (FB9) are involved in the GRADE Center Language.



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### Further Information

Please visit individual center homepage at:

✉ [www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/54289115/Language\\_overview](http://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/54289115/Language_overview)

✉ [grade-language@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:grade-language@em.uni-frankfurt.de)



### GRADE – Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt  
Campus Bockenheim  
Senckenberganlage 31  
60325 Frankfurt am Main

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# GRADE Center Language

## GRADE Center Language – Workshops, Lecture Series, Financial Support

### Lecture Series

During the academic semester, international experts are invited to present their recent research at a weekly Colloquium (Tuesdays, 4 pm – 6 pm), co-hosted by the DFG-Graduate Training Group “Nominal Modification”. For program details, please visit:

✉ <https://nominal-modification.de/index.php/colloquium>

Every year an International Mercator Fellow is invited for a stay at Goethe University up to three months co-hosted by the Graduate Training Group “Nominal Modification”. The expert gives lectures, offers specific hands-on workshops on the topic of her/his expertise and provides mentoring for doctoral researchers.

### Workshops

Workshops on academic and non-academic career paths for linguists are organized regularly by the Center. Information on the dates and location can be found here:

✉ <https://nominal-modification.de/index.php/events/>

### Financial Support

The GRADE Center Language offers support for PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows with funds of up to € 600 per person. Members of the GRADE Center Language can receive funding for:

- › Travel expenses to support active participation at academic conferences
- › Research assistants to support individual research
- › Expenses for publications for non-commercial publishers

## GRADE Center Language

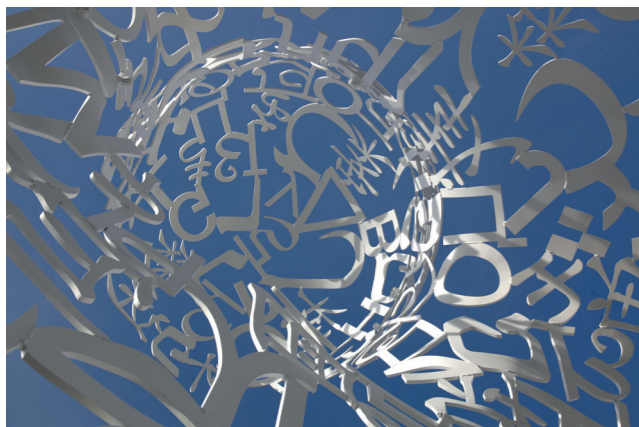
### The blueprint of the human language faculty

Despite the many apparent differences regarding sounds, words, and structures between the languages of the world, all languages are based on universal principles that characterize them as being part of human cognition.

Our linguistic research program aims at uncovering these principles and the rules of their interaction in order to gain a deeper understanding of the blueprint of the human language faculty.

Three insights of modern linguistic theory constitute the backbone of our research program:

- › First, linguistic expressions are organized hierarchically, although superficially linguistic signals consist of a linear concatenation of sounds, words and sentences.
- › Second, linguistic variation, both diachronically and across typologically different languages, is not random but restricted in systematic ways.
- › Third, the human language faculty is organized in a modular fashion, comprising the core modules of language, i.e. phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.



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Linguistic research at Goethe University is guided by five global research questions:

- › In which way does the blueprint of the human language faculty determine the acquisition of one or more specific first languages?
- › How can the typological heterogeneity of the languages of the world be captured within a general blueprint of human language?
- › To what extent are the different modules of the human language organized in a parallel fashion?
- › Does the diachronic variation between different stages of the same language mirror the same general principles as synchronic variation between genetically close and distant languages?
- › How does linguistic knowledge interact with other cognitive systems in production and comprehension?

The GRADE Center Language is a research-oriented program open to high-profile graduate students and postdoctoral researchers with a background in linguistics and a strong interest in research on grammar and language related topics.

The overall goal is to train graduate students in different areas of linguistics, with a firm foundation in grammatical theory and relevant empirical methods, and help them complete their doctoral degree in a timely fashion. Postdoctoral researchers are supported with additional trainings aimed at further developing their academic career.

## Membership

We invite PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows of Goethe University whose research projects tie in with the thematic focus in the field of linguistics advocated by the Center to become **members** of the GRADE Center Language.

We also invite junior researchers of the cooperating institutions and projects to become **associate members** of the Center.

### Step by Step Membership

#### 1 – Center Membership

##### Affiliation with Goethe University

In order to be eligible to become a member you have to meet the following requirements:

- › Your research focus is in the field of linguistics.
- › In case you are a graduate student you need to be formally admitted as a PhD candidate by one of the following faculties: Psychology and Sport Sciences (Faculty 05), Philosophy and History (Faculty 08), Linguistics, Cultures and Arts (Faculty 09), Modern Languages (Faculty 10).
- › In case you are a postdoctoral researcher, you need to be associated with one of the faculties above.

##### Registration at GRADE

As an additional requirement, you need to register at GRADE-Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers and express your interest in becoming a member of the GRADE Center Language.

The forms for registration can be found here:

🔗 <https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/52285745>



##### Becoming a Member of GRADE Language

GRADE will forward your declaration of interest in a Center membership to us. We will then contact you and ask you to submit a letter of motivation as well as a description of your current research project. In case you are already registered with GRADE, please address your application directly to the Center Coordinator Dr. Derya Nuhbalaoglu:

✉ [Nuhbalaoglu@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:Nuhbalaoglu@em.uni-frankfurt.de)

#### 2 – Associate Center Membership

Please contact us directly via e-mail:

✉ [grade-language@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:grade-language@em.uni-frankfurt.de)

## GRADE – a Comprehensive Set of Services for Early Career Researchers

### Training Program

Participate in workshops from the extensive general GRADE training program, and in subject-specific workshops within GRADE Language.

### Career Talks

Meet potential employers and experienced professionals in a relaxed atmosphere.

### Initiatives

Establish a topic- or methods-oriented working group with other early career researchers and profit from financial and peer support.

### Social Events

Get in touch with other early career researchers and get to know the sights and the culture of Frankfurt.

### Networking

Develop and expand your network – GRADE events bring together early career researchers from all faculties.

### Advice and Coaching

Get advice on personal, research and career-related topics and discuss challenges with a professional coach.

### International Researchers

As international researchers, take part in our integration program to ease your start at Goethe University.

### Language Courses

Learn German or English or improve your language skills together with other early career researchers.

### Language Service

Have your manuscripts checked for correct English by our Language Service.