Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Machine Translation and Post-editing (A704028)

Course size
Credits 5.0
Study time 150 h
Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 1) English practicum 22.5 h
self-reliant study activities 22.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Macken, Lieve LW22 lecturer-in-charge
Daems, Joke LW22 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020
Postgraduate Certificate Computer-Assisted Language Mediation 5 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Machine translation, post-editing

Position of the course
Machine Translation (MT) is the translation of text by a computer. To produce high-quality translations, humans still need to intervene in the process either by making the input more suitable for MT (pre-editing) or changing the output (post-editing).

Contents
The course deals with the following topics:
• Challenges for MT;
• Architecture of MT systems (rule-based MT, statistical MT and neural MT systems; interactive and adaptive systems);
• Evaluation of MT output (automatic vs. manual evaluation methods);
• Post-editing and post-editing tools;
• Integration of MT in the translation workflow;
• Creation and evaluation of a customized MT engine.

Initial competences
The student has a basic knowledge of English and a basic knowledge of at least one of the following languages: Dutch, French or German.

Final competences
1 The student has advanced knowledge of different machine translation architectures and can, based on that knowledge, critically assess different machine translation systems;
2 The student has advanced knowledge of the evaluation methods that are used in the field of MT;
3 The student has advanced knowledge of the post-editing process and the typical MT errors;
4 The student has knowledge of how MT is integrated in translation workflows.

Conditions for credit contract
This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

(Proposal)
Teaching methods
Practicum, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods
Seminars in the computer lab.
Guided self-study/team work in the computer lab or at home.

Learning materials and price
Handouts and materials on the electronic learning platform Ufora.
Geraamde totaalprijs: 0 EUR

References
• Koehn, P. Statistical Machine Translation. Cambridge University Press, 2010

Course content-related study coaching
Discussion forum on Ufora
Possibility to contact lecturers via e-mail

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Assignment, skills test
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods
First session:
• Skills test (50%)
• Assignment (50%)
The skills test consists of several practical assignments that are completed during the classes. The assignment consists of a more elaborate task and a report.
Second session:
• Written exam (100%)

Calculation of the examination mark
First session: skills test 50%; assignment 50%
Second session: exam 100%

Facilities for Working Students
Class attendance is mandatory.
Limited possibility of feedback via e-mail, restricted to answering specific questions.