

## Finnish Sign Language as a Mother Tongue (K1)

### The composition of studies

**Basic studies** (30 pts) are common to all major and minor students. The scope of **subject studies** is 50 pts for major students, 35 pts for minor students. Minor students do not attend the proseminar or write the Bachelor's thesis.

Major students choose one of the joint introduction courses of Department of Languages. For those who have been directly selected for teacher education, the introduction course of language learning and teaching, KLSA120, is recommended. The joint courses of Department of Languages are introduced in the curriculum of joint studies of Department of Languages.

The curriculum consisting of study weeks is valid till 31.7.2008 for those students who study according to earlier curricula.

	<b>Basic studies</b>	<b>Subject studies</b>
<b>Obligatory for everyone</b>	SVKP110 Language Knowledge and Linguistics (5pts) SVKP120 Structure and Usage of Signed Languages (15pts) SVKP130 Intercultural Communication and Sign Language Culture (5pts) SVKP140 Language Acquisition and Bilingualism (5pts)	SVKA110 Structure and Research of Signed Languages (10pts) SVKA130 Sign Language Lexicon and Onomastics (5pts) SVKA140 Language and Culture (15pts) SVKA180 Optional Studies (5pts)
<b>Obligatory for major students</b>		SVKA170 Proseminar and Bachelor's Thesis (12pts) SVKA190 An introduction course of the SVK courses or of the joint courses of the Department of Languages (3pts) *
<b>Study points total</b>	30 pts	50 pts – major students 35 pts – minor students

\* For major students who have been directly selected for teacher training, the course "Introduction to the research of language learning and teaching" (KLSA120) is recommended.

**Advanced studies** consist of 80 pts. Pro gradu thesis (40 pts) and seminar (5 pts) are common to everyone. Student chooses other studies according to his/her orientation in a way that 10–25 pts are joint studies of the Department of Languages (codes KLSS100, KLSS300,

KLSS900), 10–25 pts subject-specific studies (codes SVKS110–SVKS117) and 5–20 pts theory and method studies (code KLSS700 and SVKS117).

40 pts	SVKS 101 Pro Gradu thesis				
5 pts	SVKS102 Seminar				
35 pts	Subject-specific studies (SVKS110–SVKS117)	Joint studies of the Department of Languages			Theory and Method studies (course codes beginning with KLSS700 and the course SVKS117)
		(A) Language learning and teaching (course codes beginning with KLSS100)	(B) Language Use and Discourse (course codes beginning with KLSS300)	(C) Language and Culture (course codes beginning with KLSS900)	
80 pts	10–25 pts	10–25 pts			5–20 pts

## Study modules of K1 (Finnish Sign Language as a Mother Tongue)

### BASIC STUDIES

#### SVKP110 Language Knowledge and Linguistics 5 pts

KLSP001 Perspectives on Language (Näkökulmia kieleen): Introduction to Language and Language Research 1 pt

SVKP111 Perspectives on Language: Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics 2 pts

KLSP003: Perspectives on Language (Näkökulmia kieleen): Approaching Applied Linguistics 2 pts

#### SVKP120 Structure and Usage of Signed Languages 15 pts

SVKP121 Introduction to the Linguistics of Finnish Sign Language 5 pts

SVKP122 Practice Course on the Structure of Signed Languages 5 pts

SVKP123 Native Language 5 pts

#### SVKP130 Intercultural Communication and Sign Language Culture 5 pts

SVKP131 Intercultural Communication 2 pts

SVKP132 Deaf Culture and History 3 pts

#### SVKP140 Language Acquisition and Bilingualism 5 pts

SVKP141 Language Acquisition and Bilingualism 5 pts

**Total 30 pts**

## **SUBJECT STUDIES**

**SVKA110 Structure and Research of Signed Languages 10 pts**

SVKA111 Phonology 4 pts

SVKA112 Morphology and Syntax 6 pts

**SVKA130 Sign Language Lexicon and Onomastics**

SVKA131 Sign Language Lexicon and Onomastics

**SVKA140 Language and Culture 15 pts**

SVKA141 Sign Language Communication I 5 pts

SVKA142 Sign Language Communication II 5 pts

SVKA143 Sign Language Culture and Literature 5 pts

**SVKA180 Optional studies 5 pts**

**SVKA170 Proseminar and Bachelor's Thesis 12 pts (only for major students of FinSL)**

SVKA172 Proseminar and Bachelor's Thesis 12 pts

**SVKA190 Introduction Course of the Department of Languages (one of the following) 3 pts**

KLSA120 Introduction to the Research of Language Learning and Teaching 3 pts

KLSA320 Introduction to Discourse Studies

SVKA193 Introduction to the Study of Language and Culture

**Total**

**Major students 50 pts**

**Minor students 35 pts**

## **ADVANCED STUDIES**

**SVKS101 Pro Gradu thesis 40 pts**

**SVKS102 Seminar 5 pts**

**Theory and Method Studies 5–20 pts**

**SVKS110-SVKS117 Subject-Specific Studies 10–25 pts**

SVKS110 Research of Phonology in Sign Languages

SVKS111 Research of Morphology in Sign Languages

SVKS112 Research of Syntax in Sign Languages

SVKS113 Research of Semantics and Pragmatics in Sign Languages

SVKS114 Research of Sociolinguistics in Sign Languages

SVKS115 Research of the Acquisition of Sign Languages

SVKS117 Research Methods of Languages

**Specialised studies chosen from the joint courses of Department of Languages 10–25 pts**

**Total 80 pts**

**Teacher tutoring and the Personal curriculum (HOPS)**

**SVKY095 Teacher tutoring (for the optional studies of the MA degree) 1 pt**

Aim of the course: The aim of teacher tutoring is to help students to acquire skills needed in academic studies, familiarise students with the practices of university and their own subject as well as help students to plan their studies and the composition of their degree. Things related to studies, career plans and the new phase of life can be discussed with other students and the teacher in the tutor group. Experts or specialists of different fields can be invited as guests in the group.

Mode of study: Teacher tutoring is meant for all major students. For tutoring, students are divided into groups that meet once a month during the first year of studies. In addition to group meetings, student has the possibility to meet the teacher tutor one-to-one for a more detailed discussion about questions related to one's studies. Tutoring is a continuous process, which will be integrated into other teaching in thesis groups at a later stage of studies.

Teacher tutoring is optional but it is recommended for all first year major students.

**Personal curriculum – HOPS**

Aim: HOPS is a personal curriculum individually designed for every student. It helps in planning and managing the studies and directs to good learning results according to one's own aims. HOPS is a tool for self-knowledge and self development. It directs to the future, even

up to working life. HOPS is flexible, however: the strengths and especially the aims of the student may change.

Mode of study: Student designs the initial HOPS as e-HOPS into Korppi system as early as possible during the first year of studies. HOPS-tutor gives advice and support in compiling the HOPS. Personal curriculum can also be planned as a part of teacher tutoring. The plan is maintained and updated with the support of the HOPS-tutor throughout one's studies.

Each student has to design a HOPS at the beginning of one's studies either as a part of teacher tutoring or as other agreed way.

## **BASIC STUDIES (30 pts)**

### **SVKP110 Language Knowledge and Linguistics 5 pts**

### **KLSP001, SVKP111, KLSP003 Perspectives on Language (Näkökulmia kieleen) 5 pts**

Aim and Content: KLSP001 Introduction to Language and Language Research (1 pt): Course offers an introduction to the study of linguistics. The aim of the course is to create an image of the multidimensionality of language research and outline different fields of language research and its research problems. SVKP111 Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics (2 pts): Student masters the basic knowledge of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, and on the basis of this knowledge, is able to analyse the structure of the language of one's study. KLSP003 Approaching Applied Linguistics (2 pts): The aim of the course is to introduce students to the problems and questions of applied linguistics and prepare them to contemplate language in relation to individual, society and the surrounding world from different points of view. The themes of the course are divided according to the focus areas of the Department of Languages into 1) language learning and teaching, 2) language and discourse and 3) language and culture.

Mode of study: The course consists of three parts, of which the first (Introduction to Language and Language Research) and the third (Approaching Applied Linguistics) are organised as joint lectures for all the first year students of the Department of Languages. Supplementary reading and assignments are combined with the joint lectures. The second part of the course (Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics) is organised in each language subject as its own course. In the subject of Finnish Sign Language, the language specific studies include lectures and literature.

Recommended time of study: The first academic year.

### **SVKP120 Structure and Usage of Signed Languages 15 pts**

### **SVKP121 Introduction to the Linguistics of Finnish Sign Language 5 pts**

Aim: The student becomes familiar with the structure of signed languages and particularly with the structure of Finnish Sign Language (phonology, morphology and syntax) as well as with the meaning (semantics), use (pragmatics) and variation. Also the basic concepts of sign language research, and research in general, are discussed. After the course, student will know the main characteristics of the structure of signed languages (of Finnish Sign Language in

particular) and understands diverse ways of describing and examining the structure of a signed language.

Mode of study: Lectures, literature and a written assignment.

Recommended time of study: The first academic year.

### **SVKP122 Practice Course on the Structure of Signed Languages 5 pts**

Aim and content: The structure of Finnish Sign Language is examined through analysing various signed texts. The aim is to learn to analyse the structure of Finnish Sign Language and recognise its grammatical regularities.

Mode of study: Guided group work and individual exercises.

Evaluation: Passed – failed

Recommended time of study: The first academic year.

### **SVKP123 Native Language (Mother Tongue) 5 pts**

Aim and content: Sign language as a mother tongue and one's own attitudes to Finnish Sign Language are discussed. Students practice to evaluate each other's and one's own signing both from linguistic and communicative points of view. Criteria of evaluation are pondered. Techniques of storing sign language and using a language studio are learned. After the course, student will be more aware of his/her attitudes towards different languages. S/he is capable of self-evaluation as well as of evaluating other people's signing, and is aware of structural and communicative features typical of Finnish Sign Language. Student understands the effect of communicative situation on the language use. Language practice (1 pt) with signers from different age groups is included in the course.

Mode of study: Practice course and assignments.

Recommended time of study: The first academic year.

### **SVKP130 Intercultural Communication and Sign Language Culture 5 pts**

### **SVKP131 Intercultural Communication 2 pts**

Aim and content: This course introduces students to the basic concepts and theories of intercultural communication and encourages them to ponder issues that affect the situations involving intercultural communication. The aim of the course is to make students aware of the their own culture and its effect on international encounters. In addition, students will become aware of characteristics of different cultures and of the differences between cultures in communication, and learn to apply this knowledge in intercultural situations.

Mode of study: Workshop, literature and/or a written assignment.

Recommended time of study: The first academic year.

### **SVKP132 Deaf Culture and History 3 pts**

Aim and content: The course looks at the history and culture of the Deaf both from the points of view of the international and the Finnish Deaf community. It also introduces basic concepts of the field together with community knowledge. The aim of the course for students is to learn to know both international and national history of the Deaf as well as cultural knowledge and activities of the Deaf and the key concepts of community knowledge.

Mode of study: Lectures and literature and/or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The first academic year.

### **SVKP140 Language Acquisition and Bilingualism 5 pts**

### **SVKP141 Language Acquisition and Bilingualism 5 pts**

Aim and content: The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge of the basic features of language acquisition, different forms of bilingualism and key concepts of the research on bilingualism. Students familiarise themselves with language acquisition of a child throughout early childhood and school age as well as with the development of language awareness. Emphasis is on the acquisition of a signed language. Moreover, bilingualism and the factors affecting the implementation of bilingualism are discussed.

Mode of study: Lectures, literature and a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The first academic year.

## **SUBJECT STUDIES (50 pts, minor students 35 pts)**

Major students complete their subject studies with courses belonging to the study module SVKA170 (Proseminar and Bachelor's thesis).

Minor students do not take courses of SVKA170.

### **SVKA110 Structure and Research of Signed Languages 10 pts**

### **SVKA111 Phonology 4 pts**

Aim and content: This course aims to deepen the students' knowledge of the research on the phonological structure of signs and different description models of signs, and to apply this knowledge to analysing sign language lexicon. Transcription methods of signs are introduced both in theory and practice. The goal for students is to become familiar with different description and transcription methods of signs and to apply this knowledge to practice.

Mode of study: Lectures, literature and an assignment.

Recommended time of study: The second academic year.

### **SVKA112 Morphology and Syntax 6 pts**

Aim and content: The course deals with several topics: the formation and inflection of signs, lexical categories, syntactic structures of clauses and clause types and the means of binding the text. In addition, the course familiarises students with the analysis programmes of sign language texts. The aim is to increase the students' understanding of the morphology and syntax of signed languages and to develop a capability to analyse the morphosyntactic structure of signed texts.

Mode of study: Lectures, literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The second academic year.

### **SVKA130 Sign Language Lexicon and Onomastics 5 pts**

#### **SVKA131 Sign Language Lexicon and Onomastics 5 pts**

Aim and content: This course looks at the lexicalised and productive sign language lexicon from the point of view of structure and semantics. The focus is particularly on Finnish Sign Language. The conventions of name signs in different sign languages are discussed. The course aims to provide students with understanding of the nature of lexicalised and productive signs, their conditions and contexts of use and their interaction. Students will learn to know the key features of sign language onomastics.

Mode of study: Lectures, literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The second academic year.

### **SVKA140 Language and Culture 15 pts**

#### **SVKA141 Sign Language Communication I 5 pts**

Aim and content: Students examine the use of Finnish Sign Language in different language contexts, practice producing and presenting stylistically different sign language texts for example by attending discussions about different themes. Communicative and cultural differences of signed and spoken languages are compared with each other. The course includes also a language practice (1 pt), during which the student practices making observations in different fields of language. After the course, student understands the meaning of context for the use of Finnish Sign Language and is able to analyse different linguistic solutions.

Mode of study: Practice course, exercises and language practice.

Recommended time of study: The second academic year.

#### **SVKA 142 Sign Language Communication II 5 pts**

Aim and content: The goal of the course is to learn to know the regional, social and stylistic variations and pragmatic factors of Finnish Sign Language. Students' knowledge of the text genres and registers is deepened. Finnish Sign Language and other sign languages are

compared with each other. A language practice (1 pt) is also included in the course. As a result of the course, student is able to recognise different language variations and produce diverse texts.

Mode of study: Practice course, exercises and language practice.

Recommended time of study: The third academic year.

### **SVKA143 Sign Language Culture and Literature 5 pts**

Aim and content: The course familiarises students with the basic concepts of sign language culture. The significance and function of sign language literature as manifesting the Deaf culture and passing on the traditions of Deaf culture is pondered. Students will also learn about the tradition of storytelling in sign language and about different text genres. The aim for students is to learn to know the characteristics of Deaf culture and genres of sign language literature as well as to understand the significance of sign language literature for the Deaf culture and community.

Mode of study: Lectures, literature and an assignment.

Recommended time of study: The second academic year.

### **SVKA180 Optional studies 5 pts**

Student carries out the study module of Optional Studies with a course of 5 pts according to his/her personal curriculum (HOPS). This course is selected from the yearly changing course selection of Finnish Sign Language or of Department of Languages.

### **SVKA170 Proseminar and Bachelor's thesis (only for major students of FinSL) 12 pts**

#### **SVKA172 Proseminar and Bachelor's Thesis 12 pts**

Aim and content: The course focuses on writing scientific texts as well as planning and producing a thesis on the field of Finnish Sign Language and literature. The goal of the course is to guide students to search for sources, use sources, collect and analyse language material, apply methods of linguistics and report the results of analyses.

Mode of study: Participation in the seminar and the method teaching offered by the department, writing a research plan and the bachelor's thesis.

Recommended time of study: The third academic year.

### **SVKA190 Introduction Course of the Department of Languages 3 pts (only for majors)**

Student chooses one introduction course either of one's own subject or of the introduction courses organised by the Department of Languages according to one's orientation. For major students who have been directly selected for teacher training, the introduction course of language learning and teaching (KLSA120 Introduction to the research of language learning and teaching) is recommended. The joint introduction courses of Department of Languages are introduced in more detail in the curriculum of joint studies of Department of Languages.

### **SVKA193 Introduction to the Study of Language and Culture 3 pts**

Aim and content: The course provides students with general, theoretical and analytical tools for examining language as a cultural phenomenon and cultural action. The course offers perspectives on the problems of language and culture, and it is suited for students who strive especially for the expertise of cultural and intercultural language use.

Mode of study: Written examination.

Recommended time of study: The second or the third academic year.

### **ADVANCED STUDIES (80 pts)**

Each student attends the seminar (5 pts) and writes the Pro gradu thesis (40 pts). Students complete their studies with a selection of courses, which partly varies every year, according to their personal curricula (HOPS). In addition to the seminar and Pro gradu thesis, advanced studies contain a total of 35 pts of some of the following: 10–25 pts of specialised studies shared within the Department of Languages (codes KLSS100, KLSS300, KLSS900), 5–20 pts of theory and method studies (codes KLSS700) and 10–25 pts of subject-specific studies (codes SVKS110-117). Each study module must contain at least 5 pts. The subject-specific studies of Finnish Sign Language are mainly completed through literature, but in some of the modules, lectures may be organised.

#### **SVKS101 Pro Gradu thesis 40 pts**

Aim and content: The student will independently carry out and report a scientific research work on the field of structure or use of Finnish Sign Language or sign language literature. The aim for the student is to apply the methods of language research, compose a research plan and define the research problems, critically search for and read source literature, compile the research data, analyse the data and draw conclusions, and report the research.

Mode of study: Guided individual work.

Recommended time of study: The fourth and the fifth academic year.

#### **SVKS102 Seminar 5 pts**

Aim and content: This course familiarises students with carrying out and reporting a scientific research by participating in group work and thesis seminar in the nature of a conference. The aim of the course is to emphasise how to carry out a research and how to report it.

Mode of study: Guided group work in the seminar.

Recommended time of study: The spring term of the fourth academic year and the fifth academic year.

#### **Subject-Specific Studies 10–25 pts**

### **SVKS110 Research of Phonology in Sign Languages**

Aim and content: The aim of the course is to deepen students' knowledge of the phonological analysis and description of signed languages by examining different theoretical approaches. The modes of description are applied to the data of Finnish Sign Language. Students will learn to know the main theoretical approaches of phonological description of signed languages and to apply this knowledge to data of Finnish Sign Language.

Mode of study: Literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The fourth academic year.

### **SVKS111 Research of Morphology in Sign Languages**

Aim and content: Students deepen their knowledge of the morphological analysis and description of signed languages by examining different theoretical approaches. The modes of description are applied to data of Finnish Sign Language. After the course, student will know the principal theoretical approaches of morphological description of signed languages and is able to apply this knowledge to data of Finnish Sign Language.

Mode of study: Literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The fourth academic year.

### **SVKS112 Research of Syntax in Sign Languages**

Aim and content: The aim of the course is to deepen students' knowledge of the syntactic analysis and description of signed languages by examining different theoretical approaches. The modes of description are applied to Finnish Sign Language data. After the course, student will know the principal theoretical approaches of syntactic description of signed languages and is able to apply this knowledge to data of Finnish Sign Language.

Mode of study: Literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The fourth academic year.

### **SVKS113 Research of Semantics and Pragmatics in Sign Languages**

Aim and content: Students deepen their knowledge of the semantic analysis and description of language: how language represents human thinking and conceptual classifications and how meanings are constructed and interpreted. The pragmatics of Finnish Sign Language is discussed more deeply. The goal of the course for students is to learn to know the semantic linguistic analysis and to apply its methods to sign language data. The students will understand language in relation to broader classifications and principles.

Mode of study: Literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The fourth academic year.

### **SVKS114 Research of Sociolinguistics in Sign Languages**

Aim and content: The course aims to deepen students' knowledge of variation in a signed language and its research from the point of view of sociolinguistics, language contacts and language change. As a result, students will become familiar with the variation of language and its research as well as know how to apply this knowledge to the sign language data from the perspective of Finnish Sign Language community.

Mode of study: Literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The fourth academic year.

### **SVKS115 Research of the Acquisition of Sign Languages**

Aim and content: Students deepen their knowledge of the acquisition of both spoken and signed languages as well as of the research of acquisition by familiarising themselves with different theoretical approaches. The goal for the students is to know the mechanisms of language acquisition, essential research movements, as well as to apply this knowledge to the research of Finnish Sign Language acquisition.

Mode of study: Lecture, literature and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The fourth academic year.

### **SVKS117 Research Methods of Languages**

Aim and content: The course takes a look at the methods of qualitative and quantitative research and the methods of language research especially from the perspective of a signed language. The goal is to guide students to evaluate the methods used in a research, compare different approaches and apply the knowledge of methods to their own research.

Mode of study: Literature, practicum-style group work, individual work and a written assignment or a written examination.

Recommended time of study: The fourth academic year.