



Application Process Master Thesis

Research Group «Kleine Weltentdecker*innen»

We are happy you are considering applying for a master's thesis at our research group.

In this document, we outline

- how to **apply** to our research group for a master's thesis,
- what the **interview** with us will look like,
- what can you **expect** from writing a thesis in our research group, and what can we expect from you?

Please read this document carefully before applying for your master's thesis.

Application

To apply for a master's thesis at our research group, please prepare the following documents:

- **Motivation Letter:** Describe why you are interested in writing a master's thesis at our research group, the research focus, and the specific topic (if applicable). Please also indicate when you would like to start and complete your master's thesis.
- **CV** (incl. all pages of your BSc diploma)

Please send the documents as ONE PDF to the group leader of the research focus you are applying to or the researcher who has advertised the particular thesis topic (as specified on the website).

Currently, we have three main research foci (with research group leaders):

- [Multilingualism and Communication](#) (Dr. Stephanie Wermelinger)
- [Pebbles App](#) (Dr. Lisa Wagner)
- [Cognitive & Developmental Neuroscience of Language](#) (Dr. Sebastian Sauppe)

Interview

The respective group leader will contact you for an interview. Please prepare for this interview:

- The interview will last approximately 45–60 minutes and will be similar to a job interview. Please prepare accordingly.
- Consider why you want to write your master's thesis at the research group, in the research focus, and on the specific topic (if applicable). Make sure you can summarise this in a simple message.
- Think about what your biggest challenge will be when completing your thesis and how you could solve it.
- Please read the passage outlining the process of a master's thesis at our research group below and prepare questions to us for the interview.

– **Prepare the following task:**

- 1) Open the R Script called «ApplicationMasters».
- 2) Solve all the tasks in this script (indicated via 'TASK').
- 3) **At the latest, one day before the interview, send your R code and the output of the final task to the group leader you are interviewing with.**

Master's Thesis Process

For your master's thesis, you will conduct a study independently, supported by at least two supervisors and advised by all current master's students and staff members. We are putting a strong emphasis on the excellent supervision of master's students in our research group and do a lot for the well-being of students and a very high quality of master theses. However, it is essential that you **take responsibility for your master's thesis**. Furthermore, **we consider respectful, honest, and reliable behaviour a given**.

A master's thesis will take 900 hours of work from your side. At our research group, this includes:

- Conducting a literature review to find a research gap, a research question, and hypotheses.
- Writing up a study proposal.
- Operationalising your research question with tasks suitable for children and setting up an experiment (especially DIY-ing the materials and programming tasks on the computer).
- Inviting children from our database and managing their appointments.
- Testing the children.
- Pre-processing and analysing the data of the children.
- Writing your thesis.
- Giving two presentations (exposé and outcome) in the research colloquium and attending the research colloquium for at least two semesters.
- Writing a summary for the parents whose children participated in your study.
- Archiving your study.