



Documented Independent Projects

(Master Major, 3 ECTS, pass/fail, www.es.uzh.ch/documentedindependentproject)

Language of instruction	English
Prerequisites	Students are expected to have successfully completed “Writing Skills and Popular Culture”
Content	This module is designed for students who had to apply study-related knowledge and skills to a project that they themselves planned and implemented (or at the very least contributed to). It provides a framework to critically reflect upon their experience and demonstrate which theoretical and methodological implications can be deduced from their project work.
Learning outcomes	Students are able to: (a) transfer the skills and/or knowledge acquired in their subject and discipline to another field not necessarily related to the university; (b) critically reflect on how a particular field of academic knowledge and/or theoretical or methodological framework pertains to areas outside of the disciplinary boundaries of their subject.
Course(s)	Self-studies

Criteria for Projects

1. project does not result from paid employment (possible exception: freelance journalism);
2. project is not the direct outcome of a course at UZH (or any other university);
3. students have/had a leading role in the project;
4. skills and knowledge from English Literature and/or Linguistics play a significant role;
5. project completed prior to the end of the semester in which the module is booked.

Examples for Projects

- (co-)organizer of a student conference
- leading role in an English-language theater project
- portfolio of journalistic work (only material from publications with an editorial board, i.e. no blogs, open forums, etc.)
- (co-)curator of a small exhibition

Organization

If you think that your project might meet the criteria outlined above, then you must get in touch with Nathalie Meyer and Martin Mühlheim (englishstudies@es.uzh.ch),

- by January 31 for the spring semester;
- by August 31 for the fall semester.

Note that places per semester are limited.



Requirements & Assessment

- *an Essay (4'000 words, ± 10%)* in which you discuss the following questions:
 - Put briefly, what was your project about?
 - To what *extent* was your practical work for the project in question informed by your studies?
 - What *specific* concepts, courses, skills, and /or methodologies from your studies at UZH have proven useful (if any)?
 - To what extent has the practical work complemented /improved your understanding of *specific* fields of research, theoretical concepts, or objects of study?

Note that your essay must reference academic secondary sources, i.e. your reflections must have a theoretical grounding. In other words, the essay should not merely be intro- or retrospective, but also assess your independent project from a (self-)critical, academic perspective. (This does *not* mean that you have to criticize your own work or emphasize any poor decisions that you may have taken in the course of the project. Rather, the idea is for you to bring your independent, practical work into a theoretically grounded dialogue with your academic knowledge and coursework.)

- *a Works Cited list* with all the primary and secondary sources that are explicitly referenced in the essay (i.e. you must only include sources that you cite explicitly).
- *an Appendix* with documentary evidence relating to your independent practical work. These 'pieces of evidence' should be referenced explicitly in the essay. It is up to you to decide what kind of documents and how many to include. When deciding what to include, you should ask yourself the following questions:
 - Will I actually need this particular document to substantiate a point I make in the essay, i.e. will I refer explicitly to this document to support and strengthen my argument?
 - Do the selected documents provide the reader of the essay with an appropriate sense of the nature, breadth, and variety of tasks involved in the project I present in the essay?

Put differently, make sure that the appendix will be selective but nevertheless sufficiently broad. The appendix ought to constitute a reasonably representative sample of documentary evidence that reflects the scope and complexity of your project.