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ENTRANCE EXAMINATION CONTENT  
FOR THE MASTER`S DEGREE PROGRAM IN  
45.04.02 LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Moscow 2024

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### **The Aim of the Entrance Examination**

The aim of the entrance examination is to evaluate the candidate's level of preparation, background knowledge and motivation to perform successfully on Master's Degree Program in Linguistics (code 45.04.02). Successful candidates should meet the requirements for minimum B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and demonstrate communication skills of a competent user level and above.

### **Entrance Examination Format and Timing**

The entrance examination both for Russian and international applicants consists of two parts: portfolio (30%) and oral interview (70%).

The portfolio includes a motivational letter and CV.

The interview is conducted in English and includes two questions on intercultural communication. The time allocated for preparation is 10 minutes. Candidates can make notes while preparing for the interview. The interview lasts 20-25 minutes.

The interviewee is expected to be able to:

- demonstrate general awareness of intercultural communication issues;
- present arguments and support ideas with examples;
- elaborate on their prior experience and background presented in both motivational letter and CV.

The overall results are assessed according to a 100-point scale. The final result is the sum total of points gained for the interview and portfolio.

Portfolio Submission Guidelines:

- Both CV and motivation letter should be contained in one file (Word/Pdf);
- No prerequisite templates are provided;
- Candidates are to submit all required portfolio materials (motivational letter and CV) to **english@misis.ru** no later than **two days prior to the examination date** (by 18.00 GMT+3);
- Subject line: ***FULL Name\_Linguistics\_Application.***
- Candidates who failed to submit the portfolio materials within the stipulated deadlines **are not qualified** for the oral part of the examination.

### **Assessment Criteria**

#### Portfolio

- Language accuracy
- Relevance of presented information
- Communicative achievement

Each criterion is assessed against a 10-band scale.

#### Interview

- Language accuracy
- Communication skills
- Knowledge of theory of language and communication
- Coherence and cohesion
- Critical thinking

Language accuracy, communication skills, knowledge of theory of language and communication, critical thinking are assessed against a 15-band scale. Coherence and cohesion is assessed against a 10-band scale.

## **Examination Content**

The structure of the motivational letter (500 words maximum):

- Biography
- Motivation (write a statement why you want to join the Program and how your enrollment will benefit your professional development)
- Career plans.

The CV must include all degrees and achievements earned in a reverse chronological order (starting with the most recent ones).

The interview questions are dedicated to general topics on intercultural communication.

Samples of examination topics covered in the interview (not limited to the list):

- Culture shock, reasons and consequences
- Cultural values
- Intercultural interaction between students
- The influence of national culture on academic culture
- Cultural identity and challenges of globalization

Samples of questions:

1. Elaborate on the uncertainty in cross-cultural communication. Give examples.
2. Discuss the strategies of accepting ambiguity in cross-cultural situations?
3. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of digitalization and AI technology in the context of human culture.

The second task in the interview is presented as a case or situation on intercultural communication which the candidate should analyze, work out a solution for and present the argumentation.

## **Recommended Reading**

1. Hofstede, G., Hofstede, G.J., Minkov, M. (2010). Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind. - 3rd Edition. McGraw-Hill USA.
2. Journal of Intercultural Communication. URL: <http://www.immi.se/intercultural/>
3. Wolfson, J. (2013). The Great Debate: A Handbook for Policy Debate and Public Forum Debate. Naperville: LightningBolt Press.
4. DeVito, Joseph A. (2015). Human Communication. The Basic Course. – 13<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pearson Education Limited.
5. Kern, Richard. (2015). Language, Literacy and Technology.- Cambridge University Press.
6. Morin, Edgar. From the Concept of System to the Paradigm of Complexity// Link: <https://manoftheword.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/morin-paradigm-of-complexity.pdf>
7. Huntington, P. Samuel (1996). The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order // Link: <https://msuweb.montclair.edu/~lebelp/1993SamuelPHuntingtonTheClashOfCivilizationsAndTheRemakingofWorldOrder.pdf>