

Programme Specification

English Language Teaching: Online (2018-19)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Arts (MA)
Name of award	English Language Teaching: Online
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	4302 (Part Time Semester 1 Start); 5402 (Part Time Semester 2 Start)
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	William Baker (wmlb)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This programme provides you with postgraduate level study in eight important areas of current theory and practice in applied linguistics and language teaching. The programme comprises eight compulsory taught modules of 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) credit points plus a dissertation which will be core, (30 ECTS, 60 CATS) giving a total of 90 ECTS (180 CATS) points for the programme.

The programme has been developed collaboratively by the University and the British Council over a number of years. Staff in Modern Languages at the University of Southampton have considerable expertise in the programme content; they run a highly regarded Masters in ELT and have expertise in the design of computer-based materials. The British Council has established experience in teacher education and training, has run distance programmes at Certificate and Diploma level and has developed procedures and resources for successful delivery of such programmes. Modern Languages at the University of Southampton continues to develop and enhance e-learning methodologies and it sees this innovative collaborative programme as an opportunity to offer well supported

quality assured professional training and qualifications online and at a distance. Both the University of Southampton and the British Council are committed to promoting and investing in e-learning technology and associated methodologies in order to increase the access of teachers of English in different regions around the world to the skills, ideas and materials they need from the United Kingdom.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

Online learning is self-instructional learning and there are no classes as such. A large degree of responsibility for and control over your learning rests with you. However, it is important to help you to structure your study time and we do this through two important online forms of contact or interaction. The following teaching and learning activities will help you to preview, focus, check on or explore issues related to your independent study reading:

- E-microteaching activities and action research and reporting/presentation in forums;
- Interactive tasks which are built into the specially designed learning materials which we call learning objects (LOs). These are organised around topics;
- Online tutor led discussion forums and real time (synchronous) chat/small group discussions;
- Accessing online resources and presentations and lectures via podcasts/audio/video files/internet;
- Private study, research and reflection and reading key texts.

Assessment

The formative assessment will consist of online "chats" that you will have with your tutor, as well as feedback from tasks and activities you have previously been set. There will also be online forum discussion tasks where you are encouraged to participate with the other students. The formal assessment of the programme will consist of a portfolio collection of tasks (ranging from descriptive to evaluative) related to certain theme, essays, projects that relate to methodological practice in your own institutional context and a 15,000 word dissertation.

Special Features of the programme

This programme is studied entirely online.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- Enable you to critically evaluate the relationship between academic, professional, public and user conceptions of language to clarify educational policy and practice;
- Enable you to apply the results of your learning, reflection and research practice in known and unfamiliar professional contexts;
- Enable you to critically examine and reflect on your learning and teaching experiences and current beliefs and relate this to familiar and unfamiliar professional contexts;
- Allow you to explore the relationship between pedagogy and technology;
- Enable you to conceptualise and recognise the practical implications of the changing roles and activities of teachers and learners.

You will be taught and assessed in English throughout the course.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. Theories of learning and learner autonomy and their relationship to language teaching methodology;
- A2. Principles and practices of communicative approaches to language teaching and learning;
- A3. Form-meaning relationships (speech functions and notions, grammatical concepts, text and discourse) in a variety of contexts;
- A4. The nature of e-learning, e-learner styles, strategies and e-learning skills;
- A5. The global context of English and its relationship to academic, professional, public and user conceptions of language and to educational policy and practice.

Teaching and Learning Methods

In a traditional programme, your contact time would typically be with materials, tutor, and your fellow participants, all in a classroom setting. Online learning is self-instructional learning and there are no classes as such. A large degree of responsibility for and control over your learning rests with you.

However, it is important to help you to structure your study time and we do this through two important online forms of contact or interaction. The following teaching and learning activities will help you to preview, focus, check on or explore issues related to your independent study reading:

- E-microteaching activities and action research and reporting/presentation in forums;
- Interactive tasks which are built into the specially designed learning materials which we call learning objects (LOs). These are organised around topics;
- Online tutor led discussion forums and real time (synchronous) chat/small group discussions;
- Accessing online resources and presentations and lectures via podcasts/audio/video files/internet;
- Private study, research and reflection and reading key texts.

For your dissertation, you will be assigned a University of Southampton research supervisor according to the focus of your dissertation. The dissertation module will help you to develop your research ideas.

Assessment Methods

Your knowledge and understanding of principles and practices and of critical applications in local contexts will be developed through readings, online tasks and lectures, forum discussion and associated practical and investigative tasks.

Your critical, analytic and evaluative skills will be developed in tutor-led discussion forums, related tasks and readings.

Real time or synchronous chat-room seminars combined with asynchronous forums which you can access in your own time will be the main channels for developing your presentational, interactional, resource management and evaluative skills.

Extended essays will develop and demonstrate your ability to reflect critically on practice and relate it to current theoretical issues.

Project work will develop and demonstrate your ability to plan, carry out and evaluate procedures with reference to locally relevant factors and theoretical issues.

Coursework portfolios will develop and demonstrate your ability to analyse forms and functions and to use language awareness and analytic skills in the development of classroom approaches, materials and activities for teaching.

Assessments designed to provide formative feedback will include:

- Online 'chat' discussions with tutors
- Online feedback on tasks and activities
- Online forum discussion tasks and participation

Formal assessments will include:

- Portfolio collections of tasks (ranging from descriptive to evaluative) related to themes covered;
- Essays exploring themes in theoretical and practical terms;
- Projects related to materials design or methodological practice in your own teaching context, involving the demonstration of research, language analysis, and theoretical knowledge;
- A 15,000 word dissertation.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Relate your prior professional experience to current theories and debates;
- B2. Analyse and reflect on your own professional practice and identify areas for change;
- B3. Critically assess developments in language teaching and learning and evaluate their impact on pedagogic principles and practices in your own teaching context;
- B4. Evaluate language teaching materials in terms of pedagogic principles and underlying theoretical rationale;
- B5. Explore the relationship between pedagogy and technology and explain the changing roles of teacher and learner in online and face to face learning contexts;

Teaching and Learning Methods

As for the "Knowledge and Understanding" section above.

Assessment Methods

As for the "Knowledge and Understanding" section above.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Demonstrate interpersonal and collaborative skills in the presentation of work, online tutorial and

- workshop discussions, planning and development of group projects, and peer support;
- C2. Monitor and evaluate professional activity including self-evaluation;
 - C3. Use ICT skills appropriately in the presentation and discussion of work, teaching/learning issues, and online moderation and management of learning;
 - C4. Use ICT skills appropriately in the planning and development of group projects, and peer support.

Teaching and Learning Methods

As for the “Knowledge and Understanding” section above.

Assessment Methods

As for the “Knowledge and Understanding” section above.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

Programme details:

This programme provides you with postgraduate level study in eight important areas of current theory and practice in applied linguistics and language teaching. The programme comprises eight compulsory taught modules of 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) credit points plus a dissertation which will be core, (30 CATS) giving a total of 90 ECTS (180 CATS) points for the programme.

The programme has been developed collaboratively by the University and the British Council over a number of years. Staff in Modern Languages at the University of Southampton have considerable expertise in the programme content, they run a highly regarded Masters in ELT and have expertise in the design of computer-based materials. The British Council has established experience in teacher education and training, has run distance programmes at Certificate and Diploma level and has developed procedures and resources for successful delivery of such programmes. Modern Languages at the University of Southampton continues to develop and enhance e-learning methodologies and it sees this innovative collaborative programme as an opportunity to offer well supported quality assured professional training and qualifications online and at a distance. Both the University of Southampton and the British Council are committed to promoting and investing in e-learning technology and associated methodologies in order to increase the access of teachers of English in different regions around the world to the skills, ideas and materials they need from the United Kingdom.

The University has overall responsibility for the programme and for ensuring the quality of your learning experience. It has planned the overall design of the programme in consultation with the British Council and established assessment procedures and administrative systems. The University of Southampton has been responsible for the preparation of the course materials you will use and their organization on the programme’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

The University and the British Council will be responsible for the delivery of the course, with British Council e-tutors and tutors from the University providing academic support for your studies. The University is responsible for the programme’s internal and external moderation procedures. Successful completion of the programme will lead to the award of the University of Southampton’s MA in English Language Teaching: online. This is a classified award.

Delivery of the programme is through e-learning technologies. You will access course materials and communicate with tutors and fellow learners through the University of Southampton's VLE. This platform provides tasks, readings and other web-based resources, in addition to access to the University's electronic library. There are also asynchronous forums, synchronous chat rooms and individual emails as the main communications tools you will be using during the course to interact with tutors and fellow participants.

You will be in regular contact with the British Council and the University through the VLE but will study the MA as a non-resident student of the University of Southampton from your own home or using the internet access and facilities offered by your own institution. The programme is open to students from around the world.

The MA in ELT: online is normally taken part-time over two and a half years, or five semesters. These twelve week teaching semesters run from September to January and from February to May each year. This programme comprises eight compulsory 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) credit weighted modules:

1. LING6021 Principles of Communicative Language Teaching
2. LING6018 Language Analysis for Teaching
3. LING6020 Critical Appraisal of Language Teaching Methodologies
4. LING6019 E-Learning for English Language Teaching
5. LING6026 Discourse Analysis
6. LING6025 World Englishes
7. LING6024 Second Language Learning
8. LING6027 Research Skills for the Dissertation

Principles of Communicative Language Teaching (1) and Critical Appraisal of Language Teaching Methodologies (3) form a linked pair, which students must take one after the other. Discourse Analysis (5), World Englishes (6), Second Language Learning (7) and Research Skills (Dissertation) are modules on the existing MA in English Language Teaching.

Availability of Modules:

The information contained in programme specification is correct at the time it was published. Typically, around a quarter of optional modules do not run due to low interest or unanticipated changes in staff availability. If we do have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LING6020	A Critical Appraisal of Language Teaching Methodologies	7.5	Compulsory
LING6026	Discourse Analysis	7.5	Compulsory
LING6019	E-Learning for English Language Teaching	7.5	Compulsory
LING6025	English as a World Language (on-line)	7.5	Compulsory
LING6018	Language Analysis for Teaching	7.5	Compulsory
LING6024	Language Learning (on-line)	7.5	Compulsory
LING6021	Principles of Communicative Language Teaching	7.5	Compulsory

LING6027	Research Skills for Dissertation Study (online)	7.5	Compulsory
----------	---	-----	------------

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LING6032	Dissertation	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) or the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes](#) as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering

- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

There are systems for the support of student learning in place which can be accessed via the VLE as well as from central University services.

You will be able to access:

- Online 'chat' discussions with tutors;
- Online feedback on learning object tasks and activities;
- Online forum discussion tasks and participation;
- Up-to-date library resources;
- Online programme handbooks;
- Online module documentation and handouts;
- Online library tutorials;
- Support for computing facilities;
- The University of Southampton Modern Languages programme coordinator who oversees all Quality Assurance.

The MA has a Course News and Information page on the VLE with a Course Guide, where you can find all the information you need about the course content and procedures, assessment, administrative procedures and regulations, and communication between you, your tutors and the University of Southampton. For each of the 8 modules of the programme you will have a Study Guide with guidance on study arrangements for the topics and for the organization of your study time.

The British Council will provide a 2 week online induction/orientation programme before you begin the course with guidance and discussion concerning the VLE and associated resources and communication tools. The VLE has student/user manuals and help tools on each page, which will provide instant answers to operational problems. You will also be given clear guidance in the Course Guide about who to contact in case of problems relating to various aspects of the programme, the software, the library and access to the University of Southampton's online facilities. The University of Southampton will have a dedicated technical support person as part of its staffing for the programme, and you will also have access to the University's general technical support staff.

Personal academic tutor

During the registration and induction period, you will be assigned a personal academic tutor from among the British Council tutors. The University of Southampton Programme coordinator will oversee the work of the PAT system.

Student e-mail and access to tutorial staff

The VLE has a student e-mail which you set up during the registration and orientation period. All mails you send to your tutor through the system will also go to their personal e-mail. Mails sent by your tutor to you will also come to your personal e-mail. Aside from e-mail contact, you will have the opportunity to discuss work with your tutors at weekly 'office hour' meetings in the VLE chat room. You will also be in contact with tutors via the discussion forums and the weekly discussion tasks they will set up. You can arrange to have postings by tutors and other participants to these forums sent to your personal e-mail so that you can keep up with what is happening on the platform outside your normal log-in times.

Dissertation supervision

For your dissertation, you will be assigned a University of Southampton research supervisor according to the focus of your dissertation. The dissertation module will help you to develop your research ideas.

Students with learning differences

Students with disabilities

Specialist online support services will be available for students with learning differences and for students with disabilities.

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; and provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Mechanisms for providing feedback to students

- Staff-Student consultative forum (online)
- E-tutorials

These will also be the mechanisms for feeding back the results of the module evaluation and exit questionnaires.

Feedback from you on the academic content and tutoring of the programme will come via electronic feedback forms for each piece of work and through permanent online forums for your questions and comments. Responses to your feedback will be communicated via the course news forum/discussion board and, where necessary, to you individually by e-mail. Two student representatives will be elected during the first module of the course and at the end of each semester there will be an online course meeting run by the British Council and attended by these representatives.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

The MA in ELT online will qualify you for a diverse range of jobs related to the English language teaching profession including teaching English at all levels of education, material design, and course and programme evaluation and coordination. A Masters degree will enable you to further develop the key skills employers seek such as: time management; problem solving; team work; deadline and project management; cultural awareness; working independently; using your initiative; relationship-building; critical thinking and research analysis. Above all, you will learn to communicate your ideas and enthusiasm to a wide range of audiences.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Marina Orsini-Jones - Coventry University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	All software is provided
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Computer discs or USB drives	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Laboratory Equipment and Materials	All laboratory equipment and materials are provided.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. The University printing costs are currently: A4 - 5p per side (black and white) or 25p per side (colour) A3 - 10p per side (black and white) or 50p per side (colour) Please Note: Paper sizes not recognised by the printing devices will prompt you to select the size and then charge a minimum of 50p per black and white copy and a maximum of £1 per colour copy. You can pay for your printing by using the money loaders or by using print copy payment service by going to http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page The University Print Centre also offers a printing and copying service as well as a dissertation/binding service. Current printing and copying costs can be found in http://www.southampton.ac.uk/printcentre/copyrooms/service.page . They also provide a large format printing service, e.g. Academic posters. Details of current costs can be found in http://www.southampton.ac.uk/printcentre/exhibition/academicposters.page ?.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.