

Programme Specification

Applied Linguistics (Research Methodology) (2019-20)

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.

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| 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 | Applied Linguistics (Research Methodology) |
| Interim Exit awards | Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education |
| FHEQ level of final award | Level 7 |
| UCAS code | |
| Programme code | 4252 |
| QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference | Master's Degree Characteristics 2016 |
| Programme Lead | Alasdair Archibald (aa3) |

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MAALRM programme provides a broad-based training in linguistics/ applied linguistics research methods and will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to undertake doctoral research in applied linguistics, sociolinguistics and language acquisition. You will develop your analytical, research and personal skills relevant to a range of careers in applied linguistics research. The programme combines general training in social science and educational research methods, with specialist applied linguistics training. MA ALRM is linked to the Social Science Doctoral Training Centre of the University of Southampton (<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/research/dtc/esrcdctc.html>), which hosts some modules indicated by the code RESM.

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

The programme consists of altogether 90 ECTS credits. 30 credits consist of a final MA dissertation, 60 credits will be delivered through taught modules on areas of applied linguistics and research methods. These modules will be delivered through lectures, seminars, small-scale research projects and independent study.

Assessment

There will be ongoing assessment and feedback via lecture and seminar activities. Formal assessment will be by written assignments, oral presentations and the dissertation.

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:

- Provide you with broad based training in linguistics/ applied linguistics research methods;
- Equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to undertake doctoral research in applied linguistics, sociolinguistics and language acquisition;
- Develop your analytical, research and personal skills relevant to a range of careers in applied linguistics research.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. Broad principles of research design, data collection and data analysis in the social sciences, as specified in ESRC Postgraduate Training Guidelines Section E.
- A2. The philosophy, epistemology and ethics of research in linguistics/ applied linguistics;
- A3. General principles and major traditions of research design, data collection and data analysis in linguistics/ applied linguistics;
- A4. Applied linguistics research techniques and skills, including qualitative, quantitative and computational methods;
- A5. Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques and the handling of multivariate data;
- A6. Standard descriptive terminology and concepts in applied linguistics, sociolinguistics and/or language acquisition, plus in-depth knowledge of description, theory and research in at least ONE of these subfields.

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will develop your knowledge and understanding through lectures, tutor-led and student-led seminars, tutorials, and workshops giving hands-on experience of e.g.: the design and trialling of research instruments; techniques for the collection of linguistic data; transcription of natural language data; working with linguistic corpora; the use of a range of software packages for data analysis. You will develop your autonomous capability as a researcher through a range of group and individual projects and investigations, supported by programme tutors; as the programme progresses you will take increasing responsibility for leading sessions, presenting your individual work, organising and leading workshop activities, and providing peer feedback and support.

Assessment Methods

Formative assessment of your written and practical work is a substantial element of the learning and teaching process, and you will have regular tutorials with module tutors to plan coursework and receive feedback. You will be allocated a personal academic tutor and will have timetabled meetings with them to review progress and set learning targets.

All modules will contribute to summative assessment of the programme. You will write some extended essays, but most modules will be assessed through a module portfolio containing a range of evidence demonstrating achievement of the module learning outcomes. This may take the form of: shorter essays; annotated bibliography; critical research review; reports on design/ trialling of research instruments; reports on workshop tasks (see above); records of oral presentations; data analysis tasks. At the end of the programme you will submit a 15,000 word dissertation which will demonstrate your ability to design and implement an independent research investigation. Coursework and dissertation will be marked on a percentage scale against explicit grade- related criteria. If you are aiming to progress to doctoral study you must normally achieve a minimum 65 average on coursework and dissertation.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. Understand the significance of alternative epistemological positions in applied linguistics and the social sciences, and their relationship with theory construction, research design, and the selection of analytical techniques;
- B2. Understand the relationship between academic, professional, public and user conceptions of language, and the ideological assumptions of linguistic research;
- B3. Understand and evaluate the main existing traditions of description, theory and research in at least ONE of applied linguistics, sociolinguistics and language acquisition;
- B4. Formulate researchable problems in applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, and/or language acquisition, and choose among alternative approaches to applied linguistic research;
- B5. Understand, evaluate and apply a range of applied linguistics research methods and tools;
- B6. Manage research, including collecting and managing data and conducting and disseminating research in ways consistent with professional practice and research ethics;
- B7. Design, implement and evaluate an independent research investigation in applied linguistics;
- B8. Assess the practical implications of theoretical developments in linguistics and related disciplines.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities particularly designed to enhance these research skills include tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, workshops, and group projects. To support you in design and conduct of your dissertation project, you will receive support from an individual supervisor, and also take part in a series of 'dissertation studies' workshops.

Assessment Methods

Extended essays and oral presentations will assess your critical understanding of the main epistemological and methodological traditions in applied linguistics research, and their practical implications. Group and individual projects, reports on instrument trials, workshop tasks and presentations will assess your practical research skills. The dissertation will assess your ability to manage and implement an independent research project.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. communicate applied linguistics research in a variety of written formats;
- C2. communicate applied linguistics research orally, including giving independent formal presentations;
- C3. identify, select and draw upon a wide range of research resources, printed and electronic;
- C4. develop and maintain a personal research bibliography;
- C5. use information technology appropriately to support and present your research;
- C6. demonstrate interpersonal skills whilst working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence;
- C7. understand ethical and legal issues involved in applied linguistics research.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills will be developed within the MA programme through tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, workshops and IT training sessions, information skills sessions, group projects and independent research.

Assessment Methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through participating in individual and group projects and presentations, through workshop activities, written assignments, and the dissertation.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

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

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Programme details:

This postgraduate programme is normally studied over one year full-time (51 weeks). It comprises M level study modules (including six Core Modules) amounting to 120 credit points, plus additional visiting speaker seminars and other extension activities, taught over two semesters (30 weeks). The independent research dissertation is completed over a further period of 21 weeks.

The taught component has a value of altogether 120 credit points (60 ECTS). The dissertation has a value of 60 credit points (30 ECTS), giving the degree an overall credit rating of 180 points (90 ECTS).

The programme has been accredited by the Economic and Social Research Council as a full research training programme in Linguistics, preliminary to doctoral study.

Part I Core

Choose one of the following two modules to be taken as Core (whichever is not taken as Core will be available as an optional module):

LING6006 - Language and Society 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

LING6005 - Second Language Learning 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|---|------|------------|
| LING6015 | Dissertation (ALRM) | 30 | Core |
| RESM6303 | Qualitative Methods 1 | 5 | Core |
| RESM6304 | Quantitative Methods I | 5 | Core |
| LING6001 | Research and Enquiry in Applied Linguistics | 7.5 | Core |
| RESM6102 | Research Design and Practice | 5 | Core |
| LING6004 | Description of Language | 7.5 | Compulsory |

Part I Optional

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|---|------|----------|
| LING6012 | Critical Appraisal of Language Teaching Methodologies | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6009 | Discourse Analysis | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6040 | E-learning and English Language Teaching | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6014 | English as a World Language | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6042 | English as medium of instruction in global education | 7.5 | Optional |

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| LING6028 | Intercultural Communication | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6043 | Language ideologies in a globalising world | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6006 | Language in Society | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6010 | Language Teacher Education | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6005 | Second Language Learning | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6044 | Teaching Foreign Languages to Younger Learners | 7.5 | Optional |
| LING6011 | Writing and Written Language | 7.5 | Optional |

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) as set out 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.

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
- National Student Survey

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

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

Career Opportunities

Given the focus of this MA on developing skills as a researcher, many students continue to PhD study and follow careers in academia. A range of employers outside academia value the critical thinking, research and communication skills acquired in this MA.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Suzanne Graham

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 |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 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 stationery 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 | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p> |
| Printing and Photocopying Costs | <p>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.</p> <p>A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/</p> |

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.