Programme Specification

Academic Year 2017-18
MA Applied Linguistics (Research Methodology)

Programme Code: 4252 (full time) **4253** (part time)

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	Highfield Campus
Mode of study	Full time or Part time is permitted
Duration in years	1 year (full time) or 2 years (part time)
Accreditation details	n/a
Final award	Masters of Arts
Name of award	Applied Linguistics (Research Methodology)
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	7
UCAS code	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2010)
Programme Lead	Dr Julia Huettner
Date specification was written	01/01/2002
Date specification was last updated	June 2017

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/esrcdtc.html), which hosts some modules indicated by the code RESM.

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

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate 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

Having successfully completed 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

Having successfully completed 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

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.

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.

Core modules		
LING6001	Research & Enquiry in Applied Linguistics	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6004	Description of Language	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
RESM6304	Quantitative Methods 1	5 ECTS (10 CATS)
RESM6102	Research Design & Practice	5 ECTS (10 CATS)
RESM6303	Qualitative Methods 1	5 ECTS (10 CATS)
LING6015	Dissertation	30 ECTS (60 CATS)
	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)
Subject Specific Optional modules		
LING6006	Language and Society (if not taken as core)	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6005	Second Language Learning (if not taken as core)	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6009	Discourse Analysis	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

LING6010	Language Teacher Education	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6011	Writing and Written Language	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6012	A Critical Appraisal of Language Teaching Methodologies	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6014	English as a World Language	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6028	Intercultural Communication	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6040	E-Learning and English Language Teaching	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6042	English as a medium of Instruction in Global Education	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6043	Language Ideologies in a Globalising World	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6044	Teaching Foreign Languages to Younger Learners	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Standalone Masters Programmes* as set out in the University Calendar:
http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html
[This text may be amended only in cases where UPC approval of exemption from University harmonised regulations has been granted

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits	Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award
Postgraduate Diploma	at least 60	45
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30	20

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 Student Services Centre

- Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas and ID cards
- Career Destinations, 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
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- 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 Programme Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; Students' Union 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

Additional information may be added by faculties in this section – for example if there are additional quality measures in place in respect of professional placements, programmes operated overseas, etc.

Criteria for admission

University Commitment

The University will at all times seek to operate admissions regulations that are fair and are in accordance with the law of the United Kingdom, and the University's Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

This includes specific compliance with legislation relating to discrimination (e.g. Equality Act 2010) and the University's Equal Opportunities Policy Statement. This includes a commitment that the University will:
- actively assist groups that experience disadvantage in education and employment to benefit from belonging to the University

- actively seek to widen participation to enable students that do not traditionally participate in Higher Education to do so;

- ensure that admission procedures select students fairly and appropriately according to their academic ability and that the procedure is monitored and regularly reviewed.

Entry Requirements

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Honours degree or equivalent	First- or upper second-class	English, Linguistics, Modern Languages or another relevant discipline.	

Mature applicants

Studying for a degree later in life can be extremely rewarding and mature students are often among our most successful.

If you are over 21 and feel you would benefit from degree-level studies, we can be more flexible about our entry requirements. For full-time courses, selectors will expect you to demonstrate your commitment by means of some recent serious study, for example, one or two A level passes, successful completion of an Open University foundation course or an appropriate Access course. Your application will be considered on individual merit and you may be asked to attend an interview.

More information on the entry requirements for MA Applied Linguistics (Research Methodology) can be found on the Modern Languages webpage here:
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/modern_languages/q100_ma_applied_linguistics_research_methodology.page

For further information, please contact our Admissions Team: pgafh@southampton.ac.uk

The University's Admission policy is available at
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/admissionspolicies/policy/

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a **Recognition of Prior Learning Policy**
Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

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 Examiners(s) for the programme

Name Dr Duncan Hunter   **Institution** University of Hull

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 Programme 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 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 (or other appropriate guide) or online at
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/modern_languages/q100_ma_applied_linguistics_research_methodology.page

Appendix:

Learning outcomes and Assessment Mapping document template

Module Code	Module Title	Subject Specific Intellectual Skills													
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
LING6001	Research & Enquiry in Applied Linguistics	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
LING6004	Description of Language					X	X	X	X	X			X		X
LING6015	Dissertation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
LING6006	Language and Society		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X
LING6005	Second Language Learning		X		X		X	X		X	X				X
RESM6304	Quantitative Methods 1	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X			
RESM6102	Research Design & Practice	X	X	X			X	X			X	X	X	X	
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X			

Module Code	Module Title	Transferable/Key Skills						
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
LING6001	Research & Enquiry in Applied Linguistics	X		X	X	X		X
LING6004	Description of Language	X		X	X	X		
LING6015	Dissertation	X		X	X	X	X	X
LING6006	Language and Society	X		X	X	X	X	X
LING6005	Second Language Learning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RESM6304	Quantitative Methods 1	X		X		X	X	
RESM6102	Research Design & Practice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	X		X	X	X	X	X

Module Code	Module Title	Coursework 1	Coursework 2	Exam
LING6001	Research & Enquiry in Applied Linguistics 1	Small scale research project (3000 words) **60%**	Research review (1000-1500 words) **40%**	n/a
LING6004	Description of Language	Data-led analytical task in phonetics and phonology = 30% Short practical exercises in linguistic description = 10% **Total = 40%**	3000 word essay addressing an issue in language description, normally related to language learning or teaching **60%**	n/a
LING6015	Dissertation	15,000-20,000 word dissertation **100%**	n/a	n/a
LING6006	Language and Society	A critical book review (1000 words) **30%**	3500 word essay on a relevant topic **70%**	n/a
LING6005	Second Language Learning	4000 word paper **80%**	Workshop presentation **20%**	n/a
RESM6304	Quantitative Methods 1	2500 – 3000 word assignment **100%**	n/a	n/a
RESM6102	Research Design & Practice	2500 – 3000 word assignment **100%**	n/a	n/a
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	250-500 word reflective report **5%**	3000 word assignment **95%**	n/a

Appendix 2:

Additional Costs

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 typically also have to pay for: [insert relevant bullet points from the following list]:

- Books and Stationery Equipment (such as Lab equipment, Field Equipment, Art equipment, Recording Equipment, stethoscopes, fob watch, Excavation equipment, Approved Calculators)
- Materials (such as laboratory materials, textbooks, drawing paper, fabric, thread, computer disks, Sheet Music)
- Software Licenses
- Clothing (such as Protective Clothing, Lab Coats, specific shoes and trousers)
- Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).
- Typing Costs
- Field Trips (including accommodation costs for the field trips)
- Work Experience and Placements (including accommodation costs near the placement, additional insurance costs)
- Travel Costs for placements, field trips and to and from the University and various campus locations (including travel insurance).
- Paying for immunisation and vaccination costs before being allowed to attend placements.
- Obtaining Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance Subsistence Costs
- Paying for a Music accompanist
- Translation of birth certificates (for programmes abroad)
- Conference expenses
- Professional exams
- Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)
- Replacing lost student ID cards
- Other activities (e.g. visiting specialist marine stations and other institutions)
- Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).

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.