

Minor Specification

Academic Year 2019-20 Linguistics

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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
Name of minor	Linguistics
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Languages and related studies
Faculty that owns the minor	Arts and Humanities
Minor Leader	Glyn Hicks
Date specification was written	28-8-2013

Overview of Minor

1 Brief outline of the minor

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. A Minor in Linguistics provides you with a solid foundation to linguistic study and analysis. More concretely, it enables you to:

- acquire an essential knowledge and understanding of the discipline of linguistics, its relevant scientific aims and research tools.
- gain a unique insight into the nature of language, its structure, its use and application in related areas such as language acquisition, sociolinguistics, multilingualism and language teaching.
- explore in depth relevant theories about language structure and use, and their practical application to related areas such as language acquisition, language teaching, sociolinguistics and multilingualism.
- become familiar with research methods specific to linguistic analysis.

2 Learning and teaching

This minor employs a combination of direct teaching by specialised staff and student participation in small group discussions. Whilst parts of some class sessions will entail the direct teaching of theoretical approaches and linguistics tools, the emphasis in the seminars is on the

active participation of students in tasks and discussions in order to reflect on theory and practice. Your own independent study is essential and will contribute to your understanding and appreciation of concepts and practical issues which you encounter in the modules. Each module is supported by selected readings and specialist resources. Linguistics staff are available for consultation during their office hours.

3 Assessment

Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways including examinations, small scale empirical projects and coursework. Examinations test your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding, often asking you to present an argument within a very limited period of time. The empirical projects require you to analyse real linguistic data and connect your findings with relevant theories. The coursework is designed to ensure that you are working effectively and may include tasks such as essays, class presentations and group projects. Some tasks contribute to the grade whilst other weekly tasks are designed to check your grasp of particular linguistics principles and methods. Particular assessment tasks are appropriate to the area of study, and the exact nature of the task is determined by the level at which you are studying.

Educational Aims of the Minor

The aims of the minor are to:

- provide you with a solid foundation and understanding of the main concepts of linguistics, the tools which are used, the debates and insights from particular fields of linguistics and their application.
- introduce you to language structures, how they function, how they vary between languages and how they can be explained.
- introduce you to the study of language as a property of the human mind.
- introduce you to relevant theories on language acquisition and development as well as the methodologies used when conducting research in this area.
- introduce you to the analysis of language structure, function, and context, as well the possible relationships between them.
- enable you to explore the notion of multilingualism and the ways in which people construct their cultural identities.
- foster a critical and reflective approach which allows you to grapple with fundamental aspects of human behaviour.
- encourage you to engage in research, work independently and ask searching questions.

- encourage you to consider the ways in which issues highlighted in the Linguistics Minor can inform your approach to your main subject and vice versa.

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the ideas which are at the forefront of debates in linguistics and specific tools and methods for linguistic analysis.
- the patterns that are found in the structure of languages.
- the relationship between language and the human mind.
- how we can account for success and failure in acquiring a second language and how this compares to acquiring our first language.
- how extra-linguistic factors such as the community you live in or context affect the use of language
- the notion of multilingualism and the crucial role of education and language policy in obstructing or facilitating multilingualism.

Teaching and Learning Methods

A wide range of learning and teaching methods are used. Classroom activities are varied and take into account different learning needs and subject areas. There is a focus on independent learning which allows the development of individual interests.

Assessment methods

Formal assessment is a combination of coursework and examination. Depending on the module, coursework can be in the form of an essay, presentation, or set of linguistics exercises. Individual module specifications provide details of weighting for each assessment item.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- define and use linguistics terminology appropriately
- set up and/or conduct a small scale research exercise
- utilise linguistics tools effectively
- critically evaluate current debates in linguistics
- apply linguistic knowledge and tools to other disciplines

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures

They provide an effective means of introducing you to key concepts, theories and linguistic tools which you will go on to explore in more depth through your own reading and research as well as within the context of the seminar.

Seminars

These provide the opportunity to work in small groups on particular linguistic issues and features and to raise questions and seek clarification on issues raised in the lecture. Weekly in-class exercises will test your knowledge and understanding by detailed analyses of the phenomena studied.

Small research projects

Both through participating in seminars and engaging in small research tasks you will develop confidence in applying linguistic tools to the study of language data and behaviour.

Availability of Academic staff

They endeavour to make themselves available during “office hours” when you can arrange an appointment for individual guidance.

Lecture notes and supporting materials

Staff provide their notes and/or links to selected on-line resources which will enable you to return to specific issues and explanations thus allowing you to be in command of your learning.

Assessment methods

A wide range of assessment methods are used to ensure that you achieve the learning outcomes of the Linguistics Minor.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Work effectively to deadlines
- Identify and use appropriate resources
- Organise your learning and research
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing
- Work effectively on a group task and participate in class discussions

Teaching and Learning Methods

Transferable skills listed above are fostered through

- effective explanations of theory and analytical tools which equip students for autonomous learning
- small research projects involving individual and group work
- seminars in which students are required to explain and discuss the exercises/tasks which they have completed
- provision of links to resources which enable students to advance independently

Assessment methods

All assessments are designed to assess the learning outcomes outlined above. Examinations provide the opportunity for you to demonstrate your ability to analyse specific linguistic features accurately and clearly under time constraints. Essays test your ability to write analytically and express sophisticated ideas and nuances effectively. Small empirical projects and tasks require you to apply skills which you have acquired and presentations provide the opportunity for you to offer those ideas and analyses in a convincing and articulate way.

Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

This minor offers you the possibility of studying language in all its forms. You will be able to explore the many facets of language from the physical properties of the sound waves in speech, to the social context in which conversations are embedded. The modules being offered are concerned with how languages are structured, what they have in common, the range and limits to the differences among them and how they are acquired, used and change.

2 Special Features of the programme

N/A

3 Details of the minor

The Minor in Linguistics is studied throughout the three levels with students required to take one module at level 1, two modules at level 2 and two modules at level 3. Each module carries the credit value of 15 CATS or 7.5 ECTS with the minor having a total credit weighting of 75 CATS.

LING1001 Elements of Linguistics is compulsory for all students wanting to take LING2003, LING2008 or LING3001;

LING 2003 Syntax is a prerequisite for students intending to take LING3003 Advanced Syntax.

Students considering taking this Minor should discuss their choice of Modules with Linguistics staff .

Year 1

LING 1001 Elements of Linguistics
LING 1003 Applications of Linguistics

Year 2

LING 2002 Psycholinguistics
LING 2003 Syntax
LING 2004 Discourse Analysis
LING 2007 Teaching English as a Foreign Language

LING 2008 Sound and Voice
LING 2009 Multilingualism
LING 2010 Ideologies, Attitudes and Language
LING2011 Variation and Change in English

Year 3

LING3001 Second language acquisition
LING3003 Advanced Syntax
LING3005 Language Teaching Theory and Practice
LING3006 Writing in a second language
LING3013 English as a global language
LING3014 Language testing and assessment in the social world
LING3015 Sociophonetic project module

It may be also possible to take some language specific linguistics modules in year 2 and year 3 (e.g. FREN 2018 Exploring French Linguistics, GERM 2004 Language and Society in the German-speaking World, SPAN 2012 Power and discourse in Spanish-speaking societies), providing the student has a high enough proficiency in the language.

Students can tailor their module choices so they can focus on language and society, Language learning and teaching or theoretical linguistics. This can be discussed with a member of the linguistics section.

4 Progression Requirements

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/calendar/index.page>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

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https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page#what_can_i_take_a_minor_in%3F