Aston University

SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

2012-2013

Subject Title	ENGLISH Half Degree Programme
UCAS/JACS Code	QR39
School/Subject Area	Languages & Social Sciences
Mode(s) of Study	Full Time or Part Time
Total Credits	180 without placement year 300 with integrated placement year
Programme Accredited By	
Dates Subject Specification Written and Revised	2006 Revised January 2007; August 2009; February 2012

Educational Aims of the Subject	The programme aims to provide a degree-level education in the study of the English Language, with special emphasis on: • its use in social contexts • the application of knowledge about language to problem solving in the contemporary world. It is distinctive in presenting theories and descriptions of language from an applied perspective, and in offering students the opportunity to make these connections for themselves during a substantial work placement. The programme aims to: • provide a thorough and staged grounding in approaches to language description • situate these descriptions in historical, comparative, cultural and social contexts • relate knowledge about the English language to issues in the wider world, with reference to areas of practical problem solving such as legal, educational and business practices • establish links between the knowledge acquired on the programme and the workplace • allow for the development of individual interests in English language, particularly through the elective modules • provide opportunities for specialised and guided investigation into specific aspects of English language, particularly through work on the compulsory dissertation
Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform subject outcomes	The most relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements are those for English. Those areas of knowledge and skills related to English language have been taken into account. Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Aston University Learning and Teaching Strategy Statement Staff expertise

Subject Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage I**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Introduction to English Language: across time and space	10	4	LE1004	CORE
Introduction to English Language: social applications	10	4	LE1005	CORE
Introduction to English Language: contexts, modes and media	10	4	LE1006	CORE
Introduction to English Language: language in society*	10	4	LE1012	CORE
Words and Meaning	10	4	LE1007	CORE
Grammar and Meaning	10	4	LE1008	CORE
** when available a language module may be chosen in place of this module*				
TOTAL	60			

Subject Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage II**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Research Methods in Language and Communication	10	5	LE2019	CORE
Variations of English	10	5	LE2021	CORE
Working with Language Data	10	5	LE2032	CORE
Choice of three electives from the following (to total 30 credits)				
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	10	5	LE2012	ELECTIVE
Language at Work	10	5	LE2007	ELECTIVE
Computer-mediated communication	10	5	LE2031	ELECTIVE
The Language of the Law	10	5	LE2006	ELECTIVE
Psychology of Language & Communication	10	5	LE2030	ELECTIVE
Language in the News Media	10	5	LE2022	ELECTIVE
TOTAL	60			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage III 480 credit programme only**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
OPTIONAL PLACEMENT	120	P	LPE001	CORE
TOTAL	120			

Subject Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage IV**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
The Discourse of Spoken English	10	6	LE3004	CORE
Dissertation	20	6	LE3006	CORE
Choice of electives to total 30 credits				
Language as Evidence	10	6	LE3005	ELECTIV E
Learning English	10	6	LE3008	ELECTIV E
Critical Discourse Analysis	10	6	LE3011	ELECTIV E
Corpus Linguistics	10	6	LE3012	ELECTIV E
Multimodal Analysis	10	6	LE3015	ELECTIV E
Linguistics of the Individual	10	6	LE3016	ELECTIV E
Leadership and management communication: 1	10	6	LE3019	ELECTIVE
Leadership and management communication: 2	10	6	LE3020	ELECTIVE
TOTAL	60			

Subject Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. <u>Knowledge and Understanding</u>			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	concepts, terminology and principles for the description of English grammar, vocabulary and discourse	• lectures (A1-5) • tutorials (A2, 3) • seminars (A2, 3) • group work (A4, 2) • individual work (A1) • guided reading (A1, 3) • Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard) (A1, 3, 4)	• assignments (A1-4) • end of teaching period examination (A1, 3) • in-class test (A1) • essay (A2, 3) • individual project (A4, 5) • group project (A2, 4, 5) • presentation (A2, 4, 5) • advanced research dissertation (A2, 4, 5)
2	the role of language and linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social action and decision making		
3	the main areas of applied linguistic inquiry, with specific reference to English		
4	theories and methods used in researching English language in use		
5	the relevance of applied English language study to communication in the workplace		

B. <u>Intellectual Skills</u>			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	construct reasoned argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement	• lectures (B2) • tutorials (B1, 3, 4) • seminars (B1, 3, 4) • group work (B2, 5) • individual work (B1, 3, 4) • guided reading (B1, 3, 4) • Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard) (B3)	• assignments (B1-5) • end of teaching period examination (B1, 2) • in-class test (B2) • essay (B1, 2, 3) • individual project (B1-4) • group project (B1-5) • presentation (B1, 2, 4) • advanced research dissertation (B1-5)
2	gather, organise, deploy and analyse evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources		
3	evaluate contrasting academic arguments and claims about English and its use		
4	identify, investigate, analyse and formulate solutions to problems		
5	plan, carry out and present investigations into topics in English language, culminating in an extended individual research study		

C. **Professional Skills**			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	identify practical language problems and discriminate between possible solutions in the light of concepts learned	• tutorials (C1) • group work (C1, 2) • guided reading (C1)	• written work (C1) • presentations (C2) • individual project (C1-2) • group project (C1-2) • advanced research • dissertation (C1)
2	apply their key skill and competencies within a real world situation, initially via ELECTIVEal placement experience, then on graduation		

D. **Transferable Skills**			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	team working skills	• tutorials (D3) • seminars (D1, 3) • group work (D1, 2, 3) • individual work (D2, 4, 5) • Virtual Learning • Environment (Blackboard) • (D4)	• written work (D2, 4, 5) • presentations (D4, 5) • individual project (D2, 4, 5) • group project (D1-5) • advanced research • dissertation (D2-5)
2	independent application of research skills		
3	ability to engage in informed discussion, to accept constructive criticism and to criticise constructively		
4	use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information		
5	work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organization and time management		

Entry Requirements	In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must satisfy any specific entry requirements for each programme as approved by the School Learning and Teaching Committee. These may include an interview and a diagnostic test.
Programme Regulations	Attendance requirements 1. In order to qualify for the award of the degree a student must have attended the required proportion of tutorials, seminars, practical classes, and lectures specified by the School Executive Dean. The Student Handbook provides details of procedures for monitoring attendance and dealing with poor attendance. Requirements for the Ordinary Degree (Undergraduate Programmes) 1. <u>Transfer to Ordinary Degree</u> A change to a single-subject programme may be possible as specified in the General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes and the relevant programme or subject specifications. Students may not normally study more than two subjects on an Ordinary Degree programme. 2. <u>Required Modules</u> The Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programmes will determine which 100 credits, out of the 120 credits for the corresponding stage of the Honours programme, should be taken at each stage. 3. <u>Stage Two Assessment</u> The Ordinary Degree Stage Two assessment will be held at specified times before the final stage of the programme and will comprise 100 credits from the modules set out in the relevant programme or subject specifications (to be determined by the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programmes). 4 <u>Final Assessment</u> The Ordinary Degree final assessment will comprise 100 credits from the modules set out in the relevant programme or subject specifications (to be determined by the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programmes).

Programme Regulations	Industrial/Professional Training **Placement Year (for 480 credits programme)** 1. Students will be required to follow a course of study for one academic year, on a programme approved by the School Executive Dean; or undertake a work placement approved by the School Executive Dean; or undertake a combination of these. 2. Students will be required to undertake the following work during their placement, as specified by the School Executive Dean: a. EITHER to sit examinations at the approved institution at which the course of study was followed b. OR to submit a project on an approved subject c. AND/OR to sit a viva voce examination on return to the Final Year of the programme d. OR to undertake two or all of the above, depending on the country and subject of study placement e. which will be assessed by the Board of Examiners as one Module, worth 120 credits at Stage P. 3. In cases of failure at Stage P assessment, the Examination Board may decide to award credits for that stage, depending on overall performance and consideration of factors described in the School's Examination Board Procedures (LES/129/03), in accordance with the condonement procedure specified in the General Regulations. The actual mark awarded will be used to calculate the Final Degree Classification.
Further information	

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.