Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2013-2014

Programme Title	ENGLISH LANGUAGE
UCAS/JACS Code	Q310
School/Subject Area	Languages & Social Sciences
Final Award	BSc (Hons)
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education (after 120 credits), Diploma of Higher Education (after 240 credits) Ordinary Degree
Mode(s) of Study	Full Time or Part Time
Normal Length of Programme	3 YEARS (Full time, without placement year) or 4 YEARS (Full time, with integrated placement year) or 6 YEARS (Part time, without placement year) or 7-8 YEARS (part-time, with one year or two half year placements in two separate years)
Total Credits	360 for 3-year and 6-year programme 480 for 4-year and 7-8-year programme
Programme Accredited By	
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	November 2007 Revised August 2009 Revised February 2012 Revised March 2013 Format change August 2013

Educational Aims of the Programme	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 optional modules • provide opportunities for specialised and guided investigation into specific aspects of English language, particularly through work on the compulsory dissertation. Overall, therefore, the programme aims to • provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and other expertise of Aston academic staff • produce well-qualified and highly employable graduates with key skills for lifelong learning.
Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme 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. QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 (2011) Aston University Learning and Teaching Strategy Statement. Staff expertise.

STAGE 1						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Introduction to English Language: Across time and space*	10	4	LE1004	CORE	Y	N
Academic Communication Skills	10	4	LE1087	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to English Language: Contexts, modes and media	20	4	LE1085	CORE	Y	N
Words and Meaning	10	4	LE1007	CORE	Y	N
Grammar and Meaning	10	4	LE1008	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to English Language: Language in society	20	4	LE1086	CORE	Y	N
Sounds in Action: Phonetics & phonology	20	4	LE1027	CORE	Y	N
Texts in Action: Register & genre	20	4	LE1028	CORE	Y	N
* *when available a language module may be chosen in place of this module*						
TOTAL	120					

STAGE 2						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Research Methods in Language & Communication	10	5	LE2019	Core	Y	N
Variations of English	20	5	LE2053	Core	Y	N
Working with Language Data	10	5	LE2032	Core	Y	N
Written Text Analysis	20	5	LE2034	Core	Y	N
Choose one of the following optional modules:						
Psychology of Language & Communication	10	5	LE2030	Option	Y	N
Introduction to Intercultural Communication	10	5	LE2003	Option	Y	N
Choose 50 credits from the following optional modules:						
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	20	5	LE2055	Option	Y	N
Computer-mediated Communication	20	5	LE2057	Option	Y	N
Language at Work	10	5	LE2007	Option	Y	N
The Language of the Law	20	5	LE2056	Option	Y	N
Language in the News Media	10	5	LE2022	Option	Y	N
Work-based Project OR Work-based Project	10 20	5	LE2058 LE2059	Option	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE 3						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
OPTIONAL PLACEMENT	120	P	LEP001	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE F						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Dissertation	40	6	LE3014	Core	Y	N
Spoken Discourse Analysis	20	6	LE3022	Core	Y	N
Choice of options to total 60 credits						
Language as Evidence	20	6	LE3031	Option	Y	N
Language and Gender	20	6	LE3023	Option	Y	N
Learning English	20	6	LE3026	Option	Y	N
Critical Discourse Analysis	20	6	LE3027	Option	Y	N
Corpus Linguistics	20	6	LE3028	Option	Y	N
Multimodal Analysis	20	6	LE3029	Option	Y	N
Linguistics of the Individual	20	6	LE3030	Option	Y	N
Leadership and management communication: 1	20	6	LE3024	Option	Y	N
Leadership and management communication: 2	20	6	LE3025	Option	Y	Y
TOTAL	120					

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. Knowledge and Understanding			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		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. Intellectual Skills		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		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		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		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 skills and competencies within a real world situation, initially via optional placement experience, then on graduation		

	D. Transferable Skills		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	team working skills	1. tutorials (D3) 2. seminars (D1, 3) 3. group work (D1, 2, 3) 4. individual work (D2, 4, 5) 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 Require-ments	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	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 Head of School Executive Dean in the Student Handbook. The Programme Handbook provides details of procedures for monitoring attendance and dealing with poor attendance. 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

	Requirements for the Ordinary Degree (100 credits) 1. Transfer to Ordinary Degree Students may not normally study more than two subjects on an Ordinary Degree programme. 2. Required Modules 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. Stage Two Assessment 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, Director of Undergraduate Programmes). 4 Final Assessment 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).

General Regulations (http://www1.aston.ac.uk/registry/for-staff/regsandpolicies/general-regulations/) and the Regulations for the programme (above) take precedence over other information sources such as student handbooks if there is a conflict. If there is a conflict between General Regulations and Programme Regulations then General Regulations take precedence unless an exemption has been approved.

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. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be audited by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.