Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2012-2013

Programme Title	**MA Applied Linguistics**
UCAS/JACS Code	Q110
School/Subject Area	LSS
Final Award	MA
Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits)
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time, part-time
Normal Length of Programme	1 year full-time 2 years part-time
Total Credits	180
Programme Accredited by	N/A
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	February 2006 Revised: 24 April 2006;22 June 2008, July 2009; June 2011; Feb 2012
Educational Aims of the Programme	The overall aim of the programme is to provide students with a grounding in key linguistic concepts and models so that these can be applied in the analysis of a range of naturally occurring spoken and written data. Specifically, it aims to: • provide students with a solid foundation in the structure of the English language; • provide opportunities for the application of theoretical linguistic concepts, and to develop expertise in at least two specific areas of Applied Linguistics; • provide a basis in research skills and methods to enable students to undertake further research; • encourage and promote students' learning, personal development and self-awareness; • develop the capacity for reflective, critical and independent thought and action in relation to their studies.
Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	a) Benchmarks Statements for English, Linguistics b) QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications c) Aston University's Learning and Teaching Strategy Statement (2003) d) Staff expertise

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits				
Module Title	**Credits**	**Level**	**Module Code**	**Core/ Elective**
Lexicogrammar	30	7	LEM052	Core
Analysing Written and Spoken Discourse 1	20	7	LEM001	Core
Analysing Written and Spoken Discourse 2	20	7	LEM050	Core
Research Methods	10	7	LRM001	Core
Choice of 2 from:				
Corpus Linguistics	20	7	LEM009	Elective
Forensic Linguistics	20	7	LEM012	Elective
Approaches to Course and Materials Design	20	7	LEM004	Elective
Dissertation	60	7	LRM005	Core
TOTAL	180			

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	methods of description and analysis of English grammar, lexis and discourse;	Methods which contribute to the development of knowledge and understanding include: • seminars involving tutor and student input and class discussion (A1, 2, 3). • application of knowledge and understanding to specific situations and texts (A2, 4). • study of basic modules and modules chosen from a range of options (A1, 2, 3). • carrying out a sustained piece of research (A4).	Completion of essays, each requiring the application of knowledge and understanding to a particular situation, or to examples of language to be analysed, and/or to a small piece of research carried out by the student accompanied by a presentation (A1,2,3) . Dissertation (A4).
2	relevant linguistic models and traditions of analysis;		
3	Relevant models and traditions of at least two specific areas of Applied Linguistics;		
4	current issues, methods and practices in undertaking research in Applied Linguistics;		
5	the ethical issues in carrying out research in Applied Linguistics.		

	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	Synthesise and evaluate primary and secondary data;	Students gain practice in analysis, searching bibliographies and on-line Resources, and in writing appropriately while preparing written assignments (B1, 2, 3, 4). The dissertation provides more sustained training in these areas (B5).	• Essays (B1,2,4) • Written text analyses (B3) • Class presentations (B3) • Dissertation (B5)
2	Autonomously search, evaluate, synthesise and integrate relevant literature;		
3	Construct coherent and defensible arguments, drawing upon a range of appropriate evidence;		
4	Independently select, develop and use appropriate criteria for evaluation purposes;		
5	Situate their own research with reference to appropriate research traditions and paradigms.		

	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	collect, record and analyse primary data;	Assignments are also designed to promote the development of professional skills (C1, 3, 4). The design of assignments, requiring the investigation of particular relevance to the student, also promotes these skills (C 1, 2, 3 4). Wherever possible, students are encouraged to present their fin through one of the many communication mechanisms of the Applied Linguistics discourse community (e.g; local seminars, conferences, journals) (C4)., conferences, journals) (C4).	• essays (C1,2,4) • written text analyses (C3) • class presentations (C3) • dissertation (C5)
2	use their enhanced linguistic awareness and analytical skills to inform professional practice;		
3	formulate, implement and evaluate research projects of an appropriate scale;		
4	work towards a publishable standard;		
5	formulate, implement and evaluate research projects of an appropriate scale, taking into account the ethical dimensions involved.		

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	ability to construct a clear argument in a manner appropriate to the traditions of analytical academic discourse;	The whole programme is designed to develop the transferable skills listed, and all tasks and assignments build on this (D 1, 2, 3, 4).	Transferable skills underpin success in the assignments and the Dissertation.
2	judgement in the selection and analysis of relevant data;		
3	proficiency in IT skills to achieve personal and academic aims;		
4	ability to engage in independent enquiry.		

Entry Requirements	Applicants should normally have, or expect to obtain, a good Honours Degree (at least upper 2nd Class) in English, Linguistics, or a related discipline, or equivalent qualification. Non-native speakers of English should have either: • an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of Band 7 in Writing and Band 6 in Speaking, Reading and Listening; • TOEFL 105 (with 25 minimum in Writing and Speaking and 23 minimum in Reading and Listening); or • Pearson Academic results of minimum 68 in Writing and Speaking and minimum 61 in Listening and Reading.

Programme Regulations	The programme is governed by the General Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes.

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 s/he 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.