



Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2013-14

Programme Title	MSc Applied Linguistics
UCAS/JACS Code	Q110
School/Subject Area	LSS
Final Award	MSc
Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits at level M), Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits at level M).
Mode(s) of Study	Part-time
Normal Length of Programme	2 -5 years
Total Credits	180
Programme Accredited By	N/A
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	February 2008; July 2009, January 2012, format change August 2013

<p>Educational Aims of the Programme</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide students with a solid foundation in the structure of the English language; b) provide opportunities for the application of theoretical linguistic concepts and to develop expertise in at least two specific areas of Applied Linguistics; c) provide a basis in research skills and methods to enable students to undertake further research; d) encourage and promote students' learning, personal development and self-awareness ; e) develop the capacity for reflective , critical and independent thought and action in relation to their studies.
<p>Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 (2011) b) Aston University's Learning and Teaching Strategy Statement (2012-2020) c) Staff expertise

TAUGHT STAGE**Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits**

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-Requisite(s) Y/N
Lexis.	20	7	LEM038	Core	Y	N
Grammar	20	7	LEM039	Core	Y	N
Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	20	7	LEM040	Core	Y	N
Research Methods	20	7	LEM043	Core	Y	N

Choose two modules as options from:

Introduction to Forensic Linguistics	20	7	LEM037	Option	Y	N
Corpus Linguistics	20	7	LEM044	Option	Y	N
Literary Linguistics	20	7	LEM041	Option	Y	N
Language Contact, Globalization and super-diversity	20	7	LEM072	Option	Y	N
Methodology*	20	7	LEM016	Option	Y	N
Course and Materials Design*	20	7	LEM019	Option	Y	N

* Participants can choose either LEM016 or LEM019.

TOTAL	120					
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DISSERTATION STAGE**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	60	7	LRM003	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	60					

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;	<p>Methods which contribute to the development of knowledge and understanding include:</p> <p>Distance learning materials sent to students and provided through Blackboard. (A1, 2, 3).</p> <p>Application of knowledge and understanding to specific situations and texts (A2, 4).</p> <p>Study of basic modules and modules chosen from a range of options (A1, 2, 3).</p> <p>Carrying out a sustained piece of research (A4).</p>	<p>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. (A1,2,3)</p> <p>Dissertation (A4).</p>
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			
Successful completion of 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;	<p>Students gain practice in analysis, searching bibliographies and on-line resources, and in writing appropriately while preparing written assignments (B1, 2, 3, 4).</p> <p>The dissertation provides more sustained training in these areas (B5).</p>	<p>Essays (B1,2,4)</p> <p>Written text analyses (B3)</p> <p>Dissertation (B5)</p>
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;	<p>Assignments are also designed to promote the development of professional skills through text analysis, and critical thinking and writing tasks. (C1, 3, 4).</p> <p>The design of assignments, requiring the investigation of particular relevance to the student, also promotes these skills (C 1, 2, 3 4).</p> <p>Wherever possible, students are encouraged to present their findings through one of the many communication mechanisms of the Applied Linguistics discourse community (e.g; local seminars, conferences, journals) Such opportunities, external to the University, will be advertised to students and may be supplemented by particular events offered by the English Academic Subject group. (C4).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays (C1,2,4) • written text analyses (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. <u>Transferable Skills</u>			
	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.		

<p>Entry Requirements</p>	<p>Applicants should normally have an Honours Degree from a recognised University or Institute of Higher Education.</p> <p>For some modules, at least two year's teaching experience is required (see individual module descriptions)</p> <p>Non-native speakers of English should have either an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of Band 7 in Speaking and Writing and Band 6 in Reading and Listening or 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.</p>
<p>Programme Regulations</p>	<p>The programme is governed by the General Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes. In addition, the following Special Regulations also apply.</p> <p>Attendance requirements: The Masters programme in Applied Linguistics is by distance learning and has a duration of between 2 and 5 years. There are no attendance requirements for this programme.</p>

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.