

Programme Specification

Award and title: MRes Applied Linguistics

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| <i>School:</i> | Education, Language and Psychology |
| <i>Subject area:</i> | Languages and Linguistics |
| <i>Entry from academic year:</i> | 2022-2023 |
| <i>in the month(s) of</i> | September or January |
| <i>Awarding institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Teaching institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Delivery location:</i> | York |
| <i>Programme/s accredited by:</i> | N/A |
| <i>Exit awards:</i> | Postgraduate Certificate Applied Linguistics |
| <i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i> | N/A |
| <i>Joint Honours combinations:</i> | N/A |
| <i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i> | Master's Degree Characteristics Statement, 2020 |
| <i>Mode/s of study:</i> | Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for part time |
| <i>Language of study:</i> | English |
| <i>Paired with Foundation Year</i> | No |
| <i>Study abroad opportunities:</i> | No |
| <i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i> | No |

Introduction and special features

The MRes Applied Linguistics is a two-year part-time programme. It is the ideal programme if you want to carry out a substantial piece of independent research and have already identified a potential topic. In the first year, you will take two 30-credit modules that allow you to develop the conceptual underpinning and research skills necessary for Level 7 research. After you have completed these modules, you will be allocated a supervisor who will guide you through a 120-credit Thesis through the second year of your programme. The MRes can be taken as a standalone programme or as preparation for a PhD.

Our expertise in Applied Linguistics at York St John University is wide-ranging, including for example: ideologies relating to multilingualism and language variation in schools; plurilithic Englishes and English as a lingua franca; the construction of gender and sexuality identities in the classroom; language and ecological justice; language policy as it relates to refugee and asylum seekers; the experiences of Deaf people working in Higher Education; and second language teaching and learning of East Asian Languages. We offer a choice of modules in semester 1 so that you can study Level 7 theory in the area most relevant to your chosen research topic: Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis, Language Myths, and Second Language Acquisition.

On this programme, you will benefit from networking opportunities with two communities of scholars: taught MA students and postgraduate research students. You will study the two 30-credit taught modules alongside students from related programmes including MA TESOL and MA Language and Social Justice. While carrying out the research project for the 120-credit Thesis you will be welcomed into our community of Postgraduate Research Students.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must submit a 500-word research proposal in an area of Applied Linguistics.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

To train you in relevant research methods and supervise you through the completion of an independent research project in a selected area of Applied Linguistics, preparing you for doctoral level research or equipping you with advanced critical, data analysis, reflective and communication skills.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

- 7.1 Display in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge and understanding of concepts, information and techniques in a selected area of Applied Linguistics;
- 7.2 Display an advanced understanding of the applications of theory to relevant real world contexts;
- 7.3 Critically evaluate current issues and research in the subject field of Applied Linguistics;
- 7.4 Take a critical and reflective role in developing and communicating ideas.

Programme structure (September start)

| Code | Level | Year | Semester | Title | Credits | Module status | |
|--|-------|------|-----------|---|---------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | Compulsory (C) or optional (O) | non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X) |
| You must choose one module from LAL7011M, LAL7006M or LAL7007M | | | | | | | |
| LAL7011M | 7 | 1 | 1 | Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis | 30 | O | X |
| LAL7006M | 7 | 1 | 1 | Language Myths | 30 | O | X |
| LAL7007M | 7 | 1 | 1 | Second Language Acquisition | 30 | O | X |
| LAL7009M | 7 | 1 | 2 | Research Methods | 30 | C | X |
| LAL7016M | 7 | 2 | Full year | Thesis | 120 | C | NC |

Programme structure (January start)

| Code | Level | Year | Semester | Title | Credits | Module status | |
|--|-------|------|-----------|---|---------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | Compulsory (C) or optional (O) | non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X) |
| LAL7009M | 7 | 1 | 2 | Research Methods | 30 | C | X |
| You must choose one module from LAL7011M, LAL7006M or LAL7007M | | | | | | | |
| LAL7011M | 7 | 1 | 1 | Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis | 30 | O | X |
| LAL7006M | 7 | 1 | 1 | Language Myths | 30 | O | X |
| LAL7007M | 7 | 1 | 1 | Second Language Acquisition | 30 | O | X |
| LAL7016M | 7 | 2 | Full year | Thesis | 120 | C | NC |

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level 50 in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will enter this programme having developed a draft research project proposal in an area of Applied Linguistics. In the first year, you will take a theoretical module and a research methods module. Which of these you take first will depend on whether you start your programme in September (theoretical module first) or January (research methods module first). These modules work equally well in either order.

The theoretical module will enable you to develop the conceptual and theoretical underpinning to your research. You will choose the module of most relevance to your proposed topic: *Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis*, which trains you in Fairclough's critical discourse analysis framework, multimodal critical discourse analysis and critical appraisal analysis; *Language Myths*, which challenges myths about language that marginalise certain individuals and groups in popular discourse, government and institutional policy, and clinical and classroom practice; or *Second Language Acquisition*, which considers linguistic, psychological, sociological and critical approaches to second language acquisition theory.

The research methods module covers critical reading, research design, data collection, ethical considerations, and quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis appropriate to Level 7 research.

In these modules, you are encouraged to play an active role, critically reflecting on subject input and contextualising it through structured and assessed reflection on how your reading and discussion connects with your own experience. Module tutors take the role of facilitators, encouraging you to think outside your own sphere of reference and maximising the development of your subject knowledge and understanding. You will be encouraged to share your experience and reflections through in-class dialogue and a proactive approach to learning will be promoted.

Each of the taught modules in the first year of the programme have three hours a week of seminar time. Your independent study will include reading and preparation for the seminars as well as the completion of assessments. The assessments are designed to best suit the theoretical content and vary between modules. You will normally be assessed via two or more of the following: data analysis, an essay, a review of a journal article, a report, self reflection, or a video presentation. One of the assessments for the research methods module is a 4000-word research proposal. For this you will develop and extend the 500-word research proposal that you submitted when applying to the programme.

You will be assigned a supervisor after the completion of the research methods module. You will meet your supervisor once they are assigned to discuss the direction of your project. At the start of the second year of your programme (either September/October or January depending on your start date) you will participate in inductions to the Postgraduate Research Student community, both at the University level and in Languages and Linguistics.

The majority of your supervision meetings will be in the second year of your programme where your focus will be the 120-credit thesis, a substantial piece of independent research. You will have access to the University Postgraduate Research Skills Programme during your second year. Your progress through your thesis will be supported by your supervisor as you apply for and gain ethical approval for the research, give a progress review presentation, and receive feedback on a draft of your thesis, ready for submission at the end of the second year.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 23/11/2021

Programme originally approved: 27/01/2022