Programme specification
MA Applied Linguistics: Translation

School: Languages and Linguistics
Entry from: September 2017
Awarding Institution: York St John University
Teaching Institution: York St John University
Delivery Location: York St John University
Programme/s Accredited by: Not applicable
Exit Awards: Postgraduate Diploma Applied Linguistics
Postgraduate Certificate Applied Linguistics
UCAS Code / GTTR / Other: Not applicable
Joint Honours Combinations: Not applicable
QAA Benchmark Group(s): QAA Master's Degree Characteristics
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications: Master's degree
Mode/s of Study: Full-time for 1 year
Part-time for 2 years
Language of Study: English

Introduction and Special Features

The York St John Master’s in Applied Linguistics has always recruited a diverse group of students. As a student on this programme, you will be studying alongside both experienced and intending language professionals, both EU/UK students and international students. The diversity of this group requires you to work together with participants of different nationalities, educational backgrounds and professional experience, creating opportunities to increase your cross-cultural understanding and to think about new possibilities within translation.

There are four ‘taught’ modules on the Master’s in Applied Linguistics: Translation programme. Two of the four taught modules are core to the Master’s in Applied Linguistics programme; they are Themes in Applied Linguistics and Research in Applied Linguistics. On these two core modules, you will be taught alongside students on the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) strand of the Applied Linguistics programme. Two of your four taught modules relate to your specialism, translation. These are Translation Methodology and Practice and Translation Technology and Practice.

An up-to-date list of the language pairs available can be found on the programme webpage. The level of language proficiency required for acceptance on to the programme is noted below, in the Admissions Criteria section.

You will receive training in a range of up-to-date computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools and an introduction to subtitling, and gain useful insight into working methods in the translation industry today, preparing you for employment (or self-employment) as a translator. As part of both specialist modules, you will be given opportunities in language-specific tutorials to hone your translating skills while, at the same time, fine-tuning your linguistic ability.

If you want to further your professional and academic development but are not sure whether you are ready to commit to the full programme and you are an EU/UK applicant, you can undertake individual modules from the programme. On successful completion of one of these modules, you may then choose to undertake further modules in order to progress to the Master’s degree award. In addition, if you are an EU/UK applicant, flexible delivery options enable you to work towards the MA over a (maximum) 2 year period, studying part-time.
The modular structure of the programme allows two entry points per year, with the Dissertation module being offered both in the Spring and Autumn semester. Whilst the modules complement each other within and between semesters, care has been taken to avoid a building-block approach.

This programme offers you the opportunity to:

- Reflect on the theory that underlies translation practice, learn how to keep up-to-date with the latest research findings in translation, and design and carry out your own translation-related research (jointly supervised by two academic members of staff to ensure that you have access to both the theoretical knowledge and the practical experience you need).
- Learn about the working practices of successful translators and adapt these to suit your own career in translation. Receive training in a range of up-to-date computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools and an introduction to subtitling in a specialist Languages Workshop with access restricted to students studying languages. Situate yourself as a language professional in the academic discipline of applied linguistics, sharing analytical tools and critical reflective practices face-to-face and as a member of an online, worldwide community.
- Improve your language skills and your ability to write in appropriately academic English. (Academic writing development classes (dedicated to Master's-level students) are provided for all participants on the programme.)

**Admissions Criteria**

In addition to the University's general entry criteria for postgraduate study, you must have either:

- an undergraduate degree (normally a 2.2 or above) of an approved university or institution;
- an equivalent qualification acceptable to York St John University.

Candidates whose main language is English must normally possess evidence of CEFR level C1 in their other language.

If your first language is not English, you will 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/](https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/)). and achieve:

- IELTS 6.5, with no less than 6.0 in the individual components, or an equivalent result in an English language proficiency test acceptable to York St John University.

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of Accredited Prior (Experiential) Learning (APL/APEL). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

**Programme Aims**

The aims of the programme are as follows:

- To provide you with skills and strategies which will equip you to work as a translator in today’s translation industry, including an awareness of the importance of genre and audience when translating, knowledge of the different roles available within the translation industry, an understanding and experience of using CAT tools and machine translation, and practice in the use of business and academic English.
- To provide a broad disciplinary framework from applied linguistics for the continuing development of language professionals, including translators. The framework offers opportunities for encouraging enquiry and reflection, promoting advanced-level practice, and developing skills appropriate to the personal and professional needs of participants on the programme.
• To enable you to develop the knowledge and skills to prepare you to engage in research within the translation profession with a view to informing your future practice.
• To offer the opportunity for you to develop as an independent and co-operative learner.
• To enable you to develop a range of generic cognitive skills including data collection, analysis, application of theories and principles, synthesis and evaluation.
• To enable you to develop your skills of communication, teamwork, self-management, organisation and problem-solving, in order to enhance your personal development and professional practice as translators.
• To provide opportunities for you to share your experiences with participants from different educational contexts, bringing an international perspective to the discipline, and to learn to appreciate and value your own and others’ educational cultures.
• To enable you to acquire a qualification that will enhance your future career as a translator.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 7 / FHEQ L7

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Applied Linguistics, you will be able to:
1. Critically apply an in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge of concepts, information and techniques relevant to language professionals within the disciplinary framework provided by applied linguistics.
2. Exhibit competence in the exercise of advanced generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities.
3. Critically reflect on techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship.
4. Take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and developing professional relationships with others.
5. Proactively formulate research ideas, questions and hypotheses and/or critically evaluate these.
6. Critically evaluate current issues and research relevant to translators and other language professionals in the discipline of applied linguistics.

On successful completion of the Master’s programme in Applied Linguistics: Translation you will be able to:
7. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in translation, within the discipline of applied linguistics.
8. Critically apply an in-depth, specialist knowledge and mastery of concepts, information and techniques relevant to translators working within the disciplinary framework provided by applied linguistics.
9. Exhibit mastery in the exercise of generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities.
10. Critically apply and reflect on techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship.
11. Take a proactive, independent and self-reflective role in working and developing professional relationships with others.
12. Formulate proactively original research ideas, questions and hypotheses and develop, implement and execute plans with which to evaluate these.
13. Critically and creatively evaluate current issues and methodologies, research and advanced scholarship relevant to translators and the discipline of applied linguistics.

[N.B There are currently no QAA subject-specific Masters-level benchmark statements for Applied Linguistics and/or Translation. The above programme outcomes are therefore derived from a combination of the QAA generic framework for Masters qualifications: (http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/FHEQ08.pdf)]
Programme Structure

Modules for the Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status of Module*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEL060</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Themes in Applied Linguistics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEL090</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research in Applied Linguistics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEL040</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEL070</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Translation Methodology and Practice</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEL080</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Translation Technology and Practice</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C: Compulsory, CP: Compulsory for progression to the next level, CA: Compulsory for award, O: option or E: elective.

* Participants must pass at least one of the translation modules to achieve the award.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The learning and teaching strategy for the programme recognises that some participants may have little or no work experience, but that, as additional language users, they may have significant and current personal experience of the language problems (and solutions) that regularly face translators. In this respect, all students will have valuable perspectives to bring to the programme.

Throughout the programme, therefore, you will be encouraged to play an active role, critically reflecting on the input and contextualising it through structured and assessed reflection on how your reading and discussion connects with your own experience. Module tutors will take the role of facilitators, in class and in tutorials, helping you to draw inferences for best practice for your future career as a translator. You will also be encouraged to share your experiences and reflections though in-class and online dialogue (on the community website for applied linguists, including translators, www.mappling.com, for example). You will engage with tutors, other students on the programme, the online translation community, and with other applied linguists.

In the specialist translation modules you will work together with your tutor and your peers to discuss and assess published translations, from both a theoretical and a practical perspective, and to search the research literature for solutions to translation problems. Using practical examples, you will apply strategies you have developed as a result of these discussions and receive in-class tutor and peer-feedback on your work.

The programme will engage in the following learning, teaching and assessment practices:

- The provision of a variety of learning methods within and across modules to appeal to a diverse range of learning styles, including, but not limited to: pre-course reflective tasks, lectures, tutor and student-led seminars, hands-on computer workshops, discussion forums on the VLE, independent study and research, collection and analysis of data, individual and group tutorials.
- A variety of summative assessments will be used, including, but not limited to, essays, written reports, reflective portfolios, assignments, oral presentations and dissertation.
- Formative assessment, using a variety of assessment strategies, will be used within some modules for feedback purposes.

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.
Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Mission Statement [see page two]
- Strategic Plan 2015-20 [see page four]
- QAA subject benchmark statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Prospects (Graduate careers website): Translation/TEFL/TESOL/Applied Linguistics programmes at other UK universities.

Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (school)
- Module handbooks (school)

Date written / revised: 22/04/2014, July 2017
first entry to programme 2015/16
QSC PASP amendment to programme length standard 25-04-17