Programme specification
MA Language and Linguistics
Postgraduate Certificate Language and Linguistics

School: Language and Linguistics
Entry from: 2017/8 in: September
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: MA in Language and Linguistics
PG Diploma in Language and Linguistics
PG Certificate in Language and Linguistics

UCAS code / GTTR / other:
Joint Honours combinations: Not applicable
QAA Master’s degree characteristics (2010)

Mode/s of study: Full-time for One year
Part-time for Three years
Language of study: English

Introduction and special features

The MA Language and Linguistics programme is designed for home and international students who have previously studied Language and Linguistics at undergraduate level and who wish to develop their study of the subject to MA level. The MA Language and Linguistics is a flexible and innovative programme which explores the breadth and depth of Language and Linguistic study. The programme enables you to develop general postgraduate level training in applied Language and Linguistics. You will benefit from studying within a School which is renowned for its excellence and innovation in learning and teaching. The School is also home to some world leading research in Language and Linguistics.

The academic study of applied language and linguistics focuses on analysing language in contexts of use and investigating its applications and implications. You are required to take the compulsory MEL090 Research Methods in Language and Linguistics module (which is shared with students undertaking other MA/MSc programmes within the School of Languages and Linguistics). You must then take a further three 30-credit modules plus a 60-credit Dissertation. You can choose three modules from a range which reflect the research and teaching expertise of staff in the School. This flexibility enables you to cover a range of areas within language and linguistics, or to specialise in a particular ‘strand’ e.g. language variation; language, identity and power; language meaning and cognition.

Upon successful completion of the MA Language and Linguistics programme, you would be well-placed to apply to continue your studies in linguistics at doctoral level (at YSJ and in other institutions).
**Special features of the programme**

The programme is offered on both a full-time and part-time basis. In this sense, the programme offers you accessibility and flexibility and should be able to cater for your situation whether you are working or have personal commitments.

Online interactive forums facilitate the exchange of questions and solutions with language and linguistics scholars and professionals working worldwide. You will be offered bespoke academic writing development classes (dedicated to Postgraduate Linguistics students). These classes will comprise 10 hours of teaching per semester, plus independent study and formative assessments, with feedback from your peers and from the academic writing development tutors. Particular attention will be paid to the issues of academic integrity, paraphrasing and summarising, referencing and critical thinking.

Teaching on the programme draws on the expertise of specialist staff who are considered major contributors to research and the development of subject knowledge in their fields. The School of Languages and Linguistics (SoLL) has particular research strengths in the following areas which are reflected in the content of the programme: language, identity and power; language learning and teaching; language variation and change; language meaning and cognition. The School has a dedicated research unit (LIdIA – Language and Identities in Interaction) for these areas of expertise. As a postgraduate student, you will be invited to any LIdIA research seminars and events that take place during their period of study. A number of the key readings used on the programme have been written by the SoLL members of staff. The School has a vibrant research culture which will enhance the programme and ensure that the content is continually updated. You will have opportunities to attend the School colloquium lectures and to attend and participate in the PG Research Methodologies conference. Upon completion of the MA programme, if you wish to pursue your studies to doctoral level, potential research degree supervisors are available in the School. This enables a progression route from Level7 to doctoral level for those who wish to remain at the University.

Some modules will be taken together with undergraduate students to ensure you have a broad range of options to choose from but as an MA student you will take a higher level assessment and additional seminars dedicated to Master’s level study.

**Admissions criteria**

Applicants must meet the University’s general entry criteria for postgraduate study. In addition, applicants will normally have:

- a relevant first degree (normally a 2.1 or above) from an approved university or institution;
- an equivalent qualification acceptable to York St John University.

If the applicant’s first language is not English, they 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/)).

If the applicant does not have the specified qualifications, they may be eligible for entry on the basis of Accredited Prior (Experiential) Learning (APL/APEL). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing subject to completing an online pre-entry module. We can provide the opportunity for these applicants to take an accessible online pre-sessional module to prepare them for the course.

Decisions on applications will be made by the Head of Programme in consultation with the Admissions.
Programme aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- Enable you to engage in advanced study and research relevant to the field of contemporary applied linguistics and language study.
- Enable you to develop an understanding of core applied linguistic concepts which underpin the study of language and how these relate to the subject matter of your programme.
- Develop and extend your existing academic and professional knowledge and skills.
- Enable you to demonstrate an advanced understanding of techniques and processes applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship.
- Enable you to engage in a range of cognitive and academic skills including data collection and analysis, application of theories and principles, critical analysis, synthesis and evaluation, and extended independent research.
- Provide you with opportunities to develop as independent and co-operative learners.
- Enable you to acquire a qualification which will enhance your present or future career options, including progression to doctoral level programmes.

Programme learning outcomes

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma, you will have demonstrated evidence of being able to:

- Display in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge of techniques relevant to the study of applied Language and Linguistics or display a competent understanding of concepts, information and techniques informed by knowledge at the forefront of the discipline.
- Exhibit competence in the exercise of advanced generic intellectual abilities appropriate to the study of the discipline.
- Display an advanced understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or to advanced scholarship.
- Take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and/or develop professional relationships with others.
- Proactively formulate ideas and hypotheses and evaluate these within the context of current studies within the subject field of applied Language and Linguistics.
- Critically evaluate current issues and research in the subject field of applied Language and Linguistics.

On successful completion of the MA Language and Linguistics, in addition to the above, you will have demonstrated evidence of being able to:

- Display in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge of techniques relevant to the study of applied Language and Linguistics or display a sophisticated understanding of concepts, information and techniques informed by knowledge at the forefront of the discipline.
- Exhibit mastery in the exercise of advanced generic intellectual abilities appropriate to the study of the discipline.
- Display an advanced and comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or to advanced scholarship.
- Take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and/or develop professional relationships with others.
- Proactively formulate ideas and hypotheses and develop, implement and execute plans by which to evaluate these within the context of current studies in the field of applied Linguistics and Language study.
Programme Structure

The MA Language and Linguistics is a fully modular programme. Students will take a range of Level 7 modules in order to meet the award of their choice. The modules, with their credit weighting and status are listed below:

**Modules for the Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>PG Cert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLG001</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Dissertation: Language and Linguistics</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG004</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Research in Language and Linguistics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLG005</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Themes in Language and Linguistics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLG006</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Second Language Acquisition</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG007</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Language and Society</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG008</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Syntax: Theory and Application</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG009</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Acquired Communication Disorders</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O*</td>
<td>O*</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG010</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Developmental Communication Disorders</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O*</td>
<td>O*</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG011</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Language and Interaction</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG012</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Accents and Dialects</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG013</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Attitudes to Language</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>O</td>
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<td>MLG014</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Psycholinguistics</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG015</td>
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<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Language and Identities</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG016</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Language and Literacy</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG017</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>World Englishes</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<td>MLG018</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Analysing Media Texts</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLG024</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Political Discourse Analysis and Rhetoric</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C: Compulsory, O: option

*Students can only take ONE from MLG009 and MLG010

York St John University graduates taking the programme will not normally be permitted to take any optional modules where they have already taken the undergraduate equivalent.

Modules will be run according to staff availability and student demand.

**Teaching, learning and assessment**

Throughout the programme, 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 will 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 and online dialogue (e.g. on the community website for applied linguistics [www.mappling.com](http://www.mappling.com)) and a proactive approach to learning will be promoted.

Your final piece of work will be a dissertation exploring a specific research question(s) about a topic within language and linguistics which is of interest to you. The dissertation provides an opportunity for you to show that your knowledge of language and linguistics, as it applies to your chosen research topic and question, is both relevant and up-to-date. You will be supervised by an academic member of staff, but will be guided towards taking independent responsibility for your own work. The dissertation module is designed to enable you to provide evidence of your ability to pro-actively formulate research plans, independently carry these out and critically reflect on your findings.
Throughout the programme, you will be helped to acquire the key skills appropriate to taught postgraduate study. These include: evaluation of your own achievement and that of others; the ability to develop professional relationships; self-direction and effective decision-making and time management; independent learning; and the ability to work in a way that encourages continuing professional development.

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

- Flexible and accessible learning and teaching methods, with full use of the virtual learning environment (VLE), email communication and varied timetabling of modules.
- The use of a range of assessment methods, to provide for a diverse range of preferences in assessment type.
- The provision of a variety of learning methods within and across modules to appeal to a diverse range of learning styles.

The teaching strategy employs a range of teaching and learning methods which may include:

- Pre-module reflective tasks (downloadable from the VLE).
- Lectures (with supporting materials posted on the VLE).
- Tutor and student-led seminars.
- Workshops and discussion groups.
- Independent study and research.
- Collection and analysis of linguistic data.
- Individual and group tutorials.
- Access to the digital archive of the School of Languages and Linguistics colloquium series of guest lectures hosted on the University Digital Repository.
- Verbal feedback.
- Access to University-based support services including library and IT support.
- Module handbooks with participant requirements, timetable, learning outcomes, dates of submission and associated policy and procedure.
- Written feedback on assessed work.

There are a range of assessments designed to suit the needs of all students. Elements of the assessment strategy are as follows:

- Submission of module assessments will be wholly online via the VLE.
- Assessments will occur during and at the end of the module.
- A variety of assessment types will be utilised throughout the programme, including but not limited to portfolios, discussion postings, reflective reviews, clinical case study report data analysis, projects and mini projects, essays, blog postings, project proposals and a dissertation.
- Formative assessment, using a variety of assessment strategies, will be used within some modules for feedback purposes.
- Where appropriate, students will be encouraged, via negotiation with the module tutors, to link their professional practice with the academic content of the programme in order that one may inform the other.
- Normally the requirement for summative assessment per 30 credit module will be 6000 words.
- The dissertation will normally be 10-12,000 words.

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:
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: 06/02/16, 23/03/17, July 2017