**Programme specification**

**MSc Clinical Linguistics**  
**Postgraduate Certificate Language Disorders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>School:</strong></th>
<th>Languages and Linguistics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entry from:</strong></td>
<td>2017/8 in: September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awarding institution:</strong></td>
<td>York St John University</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching institution:</strong></td>
<td>York St John University</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery location:</strong></td>
<td>York St John University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme/s accredited by:</strong></td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Exit awards:** | MSc Language Disorders  
Postgraduate Diploma Language Disorders  
Postgraduate Certificate Language Disorders  
Postgraduate Certificate Applied Linguistics |
| **UCAS code / GTTR / other:** | Not applicable |
| **Joint Honours combinations:** | Not applicable |
| **QAA benchmark group(s):** | Not applicable |
| **Mode/s of study:** | Full-time for 1 year  
Part-time for 3 years |
| **Language of study:** | English |

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**Introduction and special features**

The academic study of clinical linguistics is defined by Crystal (1989) as “the application of linguistic science to the study of communication disability, as encountered in clinical situations.” In this MSc you will be considering a broad range of speech, language and communication difficulties, how linguistics informs clinicians’ understanding of those conditions, and how speech, language and communication difficulties may be assessed, diagnosed and managed in a clinical setting.

You will focus on how language can break down or be changed by communication disorders, and examine good quality evidence evaluating interventions designed to ameliorate well-being and skills of affected individuals. You will consider the role of Speech and Language Therapists working with patients throughout the lifespan, and also that of educational psychologists working with children to improve educational outcomes for those with communication disorders.

This programme will appeal to students with an undergraduate qualification in linguistics or a related discipline such as psychology or education, who wish to develop their understanding of language disorders and how these are evaluated and managed.

For this programme the modules are set out to ensure that you gain a broad appreciation of the application of clinical linguistics throughout the lifespan. In the taught modules, you will focus on disorders with either developmental or acquired aetiologies that exert their effects at various stages of the lifespan, and, unlike in many other taught programmes, the module content is not specialised towards disorders exclusively affecting a particular age range.

On completion of the MSc Clinical Linguistics, you will be expected to demonstrate an advanced understanding of concepts, information and theory relevant to the field of contemporary clinical linguistics. Additionally, you will be expected to evidence an advanced understanding of techniques and processes applicable to your own research and advanced scholarship.
You will take a range of M-level modules in order to meet the accredited award of your choice. The modules, with their credit rating and status, are listed by semester below:

Upon successful completion of the MSc Clinical Linguistics programme, you would be eligible to apply to continue your studies in linguistics at doctoral level (at YSJ and in other institutions). The option of a part-time programme is also available if you wish to continue working while you study.

**Special features of the programme**

The programme is offered on a full-time and part-time basis, offering you flexibility and the ability to tailor your studies alongside your personal and work commitments. It offers you the opportunity to study an innovative programme conferring expertise in both acquired and developmental communication disorders.

Online interactive forums facilitate the exchange of questions and solutions with language and linguistics scholars and professionals working worldwide. Innovative pedagogic approaches to seminar study will be incorporated, in particular making use of case studies to drive seminar teaching through sources such as Master Clinician Network’s library of video recorded consultations. You will be provided with free access to this network for the duration of your course, and this offers you the opportunity to view any of the over 100 consultations with child and adult clients that are available through the network. These consultations include some diagnostic assessments, therapeutic interventions, and consultations in languages other than English. Students can also post their observations and comments on the consultation videos on the network, and via this medium they can engage in discussion with students and clinicians worldwide.

You will also 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 plagiarism, 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: acquired and developmental language impairment; language, identity and power; language learning and teaching; language variation and change; language meaning and cognition; 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 MSc 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 M level to doctoral level for those who wish to remain at York St. John University.

**Admissions criteria**

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

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

**Alternative entry routes**
Where applicants do not meet the entry requirements stated, it may be possible to take into account evidence of prior professional or academic experience. For example, significant previous work in a clinical setting might be considered appropriate evidence of applicants having met the entry requirements for the MSc Clinical Linguistics award. In such a case, appropriate evidence might be presented to support the applicant’s case for admission, or an alternative entry task/pre-sessional study may be set.

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

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.

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

Programme aims

- Enable students to engage in advanced study and research relevant to the field of Clinical Linguistics.
- Enable students to develop an understanding of the core linguistic concepts which underpin the study of clinical linguistics and clinical practice and how these relate to the subject matter of their programme.
- Develop and extend students’ existing academic and professional knowledge and skills.
- Enable students to demonstrate an advanced understanding of techniques and processes applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.
- Enable students 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 students with opportunities to develop as independent and co-operative learners.
- Enable students to acquire a qualification which will enhance their present or future career options, including progression to doctoral level programmes.

Programme learning outcomes

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma you will demonstrate:

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Critical understanding of features of communication disorders and their impact on speech, language and literacy
2. Advanced knowledge of theories, approaches and methods in applied linguistic and clinical research.

Cognitive and Thinking Skills

3. Synthesis and analysis of information and knowledge in order to extract meaning and understanding, including the ability to analyse research findings on a range of topics related to clinical linguistics.
4. Critical evaluation of different theoretical positions and related research when considering approaches to diagnosis, assessment and treatment of communication disorders

Practical/Professional Skills
5. Ability to analyse behavioural data to formulate a viewpoint on presenting disorders and consider therapeutic approaches that will enable communication skills to be maximised
6. Critical evaluation and reflection on own and others’ teaching and learning.

**Key Transferable Skills**

7. Advanced IT skills involving use of packages to aid with data analysis and presentation of work
8. Self-directedness and ability to act autonomously when preparing and delivering assessed and formative tasks during tutorials and seminars
9. Ability to learn independently and work in a way that ensures continuing professional development.

As well as the above, on successful completion of the **MSc Clinical Linguistics** you will additionally demonstrate:

10. In-depth knowledge of theoretical and practical issues relating to the field of Clinical Linguistics
11. Mastery in the exercise of generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities.
12. Advanced and comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or to advanced scholarship.
13. A proactive and self-reflective approach in working and/or develop professional relationships with others.
14. Ability to design, conduct and successfully execute an extended piece of independent research in the area of Clinical Linguistics

The York St John University graduate attributes are embedded into the learning outcomes and programme content. You will have opportunities to develop research-oriented learning, independence, self-awareness, digital literacy and effective communication skills in all assessment components of the course. Language and social justice is a key theme which runs throughout the programme and underpins much research and other teaching in the School of Languages and Linguistics. This will help you to become global in your outlook, adaptable to different issues and contexts, and socially responsible.

**Programme Structure**

The MSc Clinical Linguistics is a fully modular programme. Students will take a range of M-level modules. The modules, with their credit rating and status are listed by semester below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>MSc Clinical Linguistics</th>
<th>PG Cert Language Disorders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLG002</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Dissertation: Clinical Linguistics</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>O1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLG010</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Developmental Communication Disorders</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLG009</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Acquired Communication Disorders</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLG019</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 and/or 2</td>
<td>Assessment, Diagnosis and Management of Communication Disorder</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>O1</td>
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1 MLG019 and MLG004 are a barred combination for the Postgraduate Certificate Language Disorders.
Teaching, learning and assessment
Throughout the programme you are 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, encouraging you to think outside of your own sphere of reference in order to maximise 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) 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 clinical linguistics which is of interest to you. The dissertation provides an opportunity for you to show that your knowledge of clinical 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 and limitations.

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 ensures 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 as follows:

- Pre-course reflective tasks
- Lectures (with supporting materials)
- Tutor and student-led seminars
- Workshops and discussion
- Independent study and research.
- Collection and analysis of linguistic data from typical and/or atypical populations.
- 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
- A variety of assessment types will be utilised throughout the programme:
  - For summative assessments (those contributing to final module marks) these will include essays, data analyses, oral presentations (individual and/or group), mini-
projects and an extensive piece of individual research presented via a dissertation.
  - For formative assessments, you may be asked to post on module discussion forums, write reflective reviews of consultations or important publications, complete on-line quizzes, and submit essay plans or draft materials for tutor and/or peer review.

- Where appropriate, you will be encouraged, via negotiation with the module tutors, to link your professional practice with the academic content of the programme in order that one may inform the other.

**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.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- If you *only* pass MLG004 and MLG019 you will be awarded a PG Certificate Applied Linguistics.
- If you meet the University’s requirements for a Masters award but do not pass the compulsory for award module you will be awarded MSc Language Disorders.

**Internal and external reference points**
This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Mission Statement
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
- QAA subject benchmark statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

**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: updated July 2017*