

Programme Specification

Award and title: MA TESOL

<i>School:</i>	Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Languages and Linguistics
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate TESOL Postgraduate Diploma TESOL
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	N/A
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	N/A
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Linguistics 2023 Languages, Cultures and Societies 2023
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time: one calendar year Part time: two calendar years
<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
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

TESOL is the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages. It is an umbrella term which encompasses the teaching of English as a 'second', 'foreign' or 'additional' language and as a lingua franca; teaching both multilingual and monolingual groups of students; and teaching both young learners and adults. TESOL professionals work as instructors, materials designers, and test developers.

The MA TESOL is designed for both qualified/experienced and intending TESOL professionals (who may be joining the programme directly from undergraduate-level studies or who may have other, non-ESOL, teaching experience). The programme attracts students from the UK and many parts of the world, who bring with them a diverse mix of educational backgrounds and experiences. This creates opportunities for you to work with people of different nationalities and educational cultures with a view to increasing your cross-cultural understanding and opening your mind to new possibilities within your specialisation.

The programme consists of four 30-credit modules and a 60-credit Dissertation. In Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics, you will develop a critical understanding of current developments in the fields of language and applied linguistics with a particular focus on the nature and status of English and other languages in a rapidly changing world. In Second Language Acquisition, you will discover key

theoretical issues in second language learning and give you the opportunity to relate theoretical frameworks to your own teaching context. In Theory and Practice in Language Teaching you will gain practical experience of lesson planning and delivery, and explore how to adapt materials and methods to diverse contexts. Lastly, in Research Methods you will discover a variety of approaches to research used in TESOL and the broader field of Applied Linguistics, and explore links between research and your professional practice. You will complete your MA with a 60-credit module which gives you the freedom to conduct an independent research project related to TESOL.

Special features:

- Gain TESOL experience through student-run community programmes such as YEAL (York: English as an Additional Language)
- Access specialist spaces for students: a Linguistics Lab, Languages Workshop
- Learn about current research issues and methods from guest lecturers in our Colloquium Series on a variety of topics related to programmes in Language and Linguistics
- Apply to join the University's Students-as-Researchers scheme

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. 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 <https://www.yorks.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 prepare students to work as a TESOL practitioner and/or continue to doctoral level study. Successful students will be able to adapt materials and methods to diverse contexts, and challenge conventional thinking in TESOL policies and practices.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

- 7.1 Display in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge and understanding of concepts, information and techniques relevant to TESOL
- 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 TESOL
- 7.4 Take a critical and reflective role in developing and communicating ideas

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAL7017M	7	1	Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics	30	C	X
LAL7020M	7	1	Second Language Acquisition	30	C	X
LAL7019M	7	2	Theory and Practice in Language Teaching	30	C	NC
LAL7021M	7	2	Research Methods	30	C	X
LAL7023M	7	Year	Dissertation	60	C	NC

Part-time route over two calendar years:

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAL7020M	7	Yr 1 sem 1	Second Language Acquisition	30	C	X
LAL7019M	7	Yr 1 sem 2	Theory and Practice in Language Teaching	30	C	NC
LAL7017M	7	Yr 2 sem 1	Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics	30	C	X
LAL7021M	7	Yr 2 sem 2	Research Methods	30	C	X
LAL7023M	7	Yr 2	Dissertation	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching 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 dialogue and a proactive approach to learning will be promoted.

In the Theory and Practice in Language Teaching module you will have opportunities to gain experience of effective lesson planning, developing your confidence to deliver and evaluate your lessons through microteaching.

Your final piece of work will be a dissertation exploring a specific research question(s) about a topic within TESOL which is of interest to you. This Dissertation provides an opportunity for you to show that your knowledge of Applied 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 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.

The programme employs a range of teaching, learning and assessment practices including:

- 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 data
- A range of assessment methods, catering for a diverse range of preferences in assessment type, including essays, self-reflection, data analysis, peer teaching, and critical reviews.
- Online submission of assessment
- Formative assessment and feedback

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for taught 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-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: