

Programme Specification

Award and title: Master of Research in Language and Linguistics

<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
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods in Language and 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>	Full time for one year Part time for two 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

Introduction and special features

The Master of Research in Language and Linguistics is a programme ideal for those of you who wish to carry out a substantial piece of independent research and continue onto a PhD or enhance career prospects in English language teaching, politics, policy writing, social activism, journalism and media, charity work or any other area of work where expertise in Language, Linguistics or Applied Linguistics is valued.

On this course, you will first take two 30-credit modules-current developments in language and applied linguistics and research methods- that allow you to develop an understanding of theoretical frameworks and research skills respectively that are necessary for Level 7 research. After you have successfully passed these modules, you will be allocated a supervisor who will guide you through a 120-credit Thesis.

Our expertise in Linguistics and Languages at York St John University is wide-ranging, including for example: child language acquisition; language and literacy; sociolinguistics; language variation and change; plurilithic Englishes and English as a lingua franca; gender and sexuality; multilingualism; conversation analysis; language and ecological justice; language policy; the experiences of Deaf communities; and second language teaching and learning of East Asian Languages.

A broad focus on local, national and global linguistic issues is embedded throughout the programme, allowing students to evaluate a range of contemporary issues that impact on language and applied linguistics. They will develop attributes such as critical skills; knowledge of professional responsibility,

integrity and ethics; and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner, as set out in the QAA Characteristics of Master’s Degree document. The programme will develop their research skills in preparation for their independent research project.

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 the MA TESOL suite. 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.

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 Language and/ or Linguistics, preparing you for doctoral level research or equipping you with advanced, transferable critical, data analysis, reflective and communication skills.

Programme learning outcomes

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

- 7.1 Display original thinking and in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge and understanding of concepts, information and techniques in a selected area of Language or Linguistics;
- 7.2 Display an advanced understanding of and novel thinking behind the applications of theory to relevant real-world contexts;
- 7.3 Critically evaluate current issues and research in the subject field of Language or Linguistics;
- 7.4 Take a critical and reflective role in developing and communicating ideas.
- 7.5 Design, execute and present independent research that demonstrates novel and original thinking.

Programme structure FT (September start)

Code	Level	Year	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
LAL7006M	7	1	1	Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics	30	C	NC
LAL7021M	7	1	1	Research Methods	30	C	NC
LAL7016M	7	1	Full year	Thesis	120	C	NC

Programme structure PT (September start)

Code	Level	Year	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status
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						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
LAL7006M	7	1	1	Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics	30	C	NC
LAL7021M	7	1	2	Research Methods	30	C	NC
LAL7016M	7	2	Full year	Thesis	120	C	NC

Both 30-credit modules are non-compensatable and must be passed in order to progress onto the Thesis module.

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will enter this programme having developed a draft research project proposal in an area of Language and/ or Linguistics. Whether you take the theoretical module or the research methods module 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, Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics, will enable you to develop a critical understanding of current developments in the fields of language and applied linguistics. A selection of themes will be addressed from contemporary research and scholarly debate on language development, teaching, structure and use, emphasising both social and cognitive perspectives. You will be encouraged to apply your developing knowledge to issues of interest in your own research and professional contexts.

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 the field of Language and Linguistics.

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 will have three hours a week of class time. Your independent study will include reading and preparation for the classes as well as the completion of assessments. You will normally be assessed via two or more of the following: data analysis, an essay, a review of journal articles and research methodologies, a report, self-reflection, or an oral presentation.

When you progress onto the thesis stage, you will be assigned a supervisor whom you will meet to discuss the direction of your project. At the start of your thesis project, 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 half of your programme where your focus will be the 120-credit thesis. 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 first or second year, depending on the route being taken.

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](#)
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Date written / revised: 24 April 2025 / 9 May 2025 / revised 4 March 2026

Programme originally approved: 25/7/24