

BA Applied English Language Studies, Part-time (Day-time)

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Linguistics
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 5-7 years
For students entering Part 1 in 2004	Date of specification: August 2004
Programme Directors: Prof Guy Cook and Dr Alison Sealey	
Programme Adviser: Prof Michael Garman	
Board of Studies: BA Applied English Language Studies	
Accreditation: Not appropriate	

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in Applied English Language Studies, with special emphasis upon the use of the English language in its social context, and upon the application of knowledge about language to problem solving in the contemporary world. It is distinctive in situating theories and descriptions developed in linguistics within an interdisciplinary and applied perspective.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. On completion of the programme, students will have mastered contemporary methodology for the study of language in use which involves the development of computer and IT skills, while techniques of text and language analysis will be relevant to a wide range of professional and personal contexts.

Programme content

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called *modules*. The size of a module is measured in terms of *credits*; a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. For a full-time programme, each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size).

Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are:

- Certificate (C) level
- Intermediate (I) level
- Honours (H) level

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling a minimum of 360 credits.

Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

Certificate level (C) 100 credits minimum
Intermediate level (I) 100 credits minimum
Honours level (H) 100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 involves studying modules totalling at least 80 credits and no more than 120 Certificate level credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study), then passing the Part 1 Examination in order to progress to the remainder of the degree.

Post-Part I, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme.

Students must take at C level those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at C level.

Of the 100 or more credits taken at I level, 5 are taken up with Career Management Skills. Details of this component appear in [Appendix 1](#)

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to study any H level modules.

The content of this particular degree programme is set out below.

The compulsory modules provide a thorough and staged grounding in (1) theories and descriptions of the phonology, grammar, lexis and discourse of English; (2) the relation of knowledge about language to issues in society and education and (3) semiotics and stylistics. The optional modules build upon this basis with a wide range of topics concerning language use in social and professional contexts. The compulsory dissertation allows students to conduct a more specialised and guided investigation. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of language and the potential for its application through the structured progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 1 (a) provides the basic resources for the description of the sounds, grammar and semantics of English, (b) introduces both psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic perspectives on the study of language, and (c) provides a broad overview of the scope of Applied English Language Studies. Part 2 provides further grounding in English phonology and grammar, and adds to this the theory and description of discourse, and training in research methods. The suite of optional modules, including modules from the BA Sociology and BA Typography, allows students to pursue more specialised areas of enquiry from interdisciplinary perspectives.

Part 3 (a) develops understanding of language development in education, and (b) provides grounding in the theories of semiotics and stylistics, drawing upon them to develop skills for the description and analysis of both linguistic and multi-modal communication. There is again a suite of options, including opportunities to select from topics available at Part 2 and study these at a more advanced level, and also additional and more specialised topics. The dissertation provides the opportunity to research, independently though under supervision, a more specialised topic.

Part 1		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:			
LS1L1	<i>Sounds, Grammar & Meaning</i>	20	C
LS1IS	<i>Language in the Individual & in Society</i>	20	C

LS1IA	<i>Introduction to Applied English Language Studies</i>	20	C
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Level I *Credits Level*

Compulsory modules

Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS2ILS	<i>Issues in Language & Society</i>	20	I
LS2AD	<i>Approaches to Discourse</i>	20	I
LS2RM	<i>Research Methods</i>	20	I

Autumn term:

LS2EG	<i>English Grammar</i>	10	I
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Spring term:

LS2EP	<i>English Phonology</i>	10	I
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Optional modules totalling 40 credits:

Autumn or Spring term:

LS2CL	<i>Child Language Development</i>	10	I
LS2PY	<i>Language Play</i>	10	I
LS2EW	<i>English in the World</i>	10	I
LS2CB	<i>Corpus-based Approaches to Language Description</i>	10	I
SO2CUL	<i>Sociology of Culture</i>	10	I
TY2TT	<i>Theory of Typographic and Graphic Language</i>	10	I

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that those modules running entirely in the Autumn term will be assessed by assignments to be completed over the Christmas vacation.

Honours Level

Credits Level

Students take 120 credits at Honours level, made up as indicated.

They may not take optional modules at H level which they have already studied at I level.

Up to 20 credits from the list of optional modules can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Compulsory modules:

Autumn and Spring terms:

LS3OLE	<i>Oracy & Literacy in Education</i>	20	H
LS3SS	<i>Semiotics & Stylistics</i>	20	H
LS3DI	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H

Optional modules totalling 40 credits:

Autumn or Spring term:

LS3CL	<i>Child Language Development</i>	10	H
LS3SL	<i>Sociolinguistics</i>	10	H
LS3FL	<i>First Language Acquisition</i>	10	H
LS3PY	<i>Language Play</i>	10	H
LS3EW	<i>English in the World</i>	10	H

LS3LP	<i>Language Pathology</i>	10	H
LS3CB	<i>Corpus-based Approaches to Language Description</i>	10	H
LS3LAE	<i>Language Assessment & Evaluation</i>	10	H
LS3SLT	<i>Second Language Teaching & Learning</i>	10	H
SO3MED	<i>Sociology of Mass Media</i>	10	H
TY3TL	<i>Typography and Language</i>	10	H

Progression requirements

The structure of part-time degrees is that students first of all take the degree subject(s) they want to study at Certificate level. The subject(s) form Part 1 of the programme. Part 1 must contain at least 80 credits, so that, if the modules for a student's chosen subject (s) add up to less than 80 credits, an additional module or two will need to be taken to achieve that total.

There is a Part 1 Examination in May or June, which students have to pass in order to go on to their degree choice at Intermediate and Honours levels.

To proceed from Part 1 students must have passed modules totalling at least 80 credits at Certificate level and must also have passed those modules required for progression to their chosen degree, with a minimum mark of 40%. To pass the Part 1 Examination a student must have a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module. Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules in a re-examination held in September.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to any module at level H.

Re-examinations for C, I and H level modules are held annually in September.

Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

Certificate of Higher Education	100 credits at levels C and 20 credits at any level.
Diploma of Higher Education	240 credits, with at least 100 credits at I level or above.

The specific progression requirements for this programme are as follows:

To proceed to the degree programme in Applied English Language Studies, a student must (a) obtain an average of at least 40% across the compulsory modules; (b) achieve an overall average of at least 40% in all modules taken in the examination; and (c) have no module mark less than 30%.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is delivered in modules that involve lectures, seminars and (in some modules) workshops. Seminars will involve oral presentation by students, and workshops will include training and practice in the description and analysis of texts and transcripts. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination, with the proportion of coursework increasing as the degree progresses. The final-year dissertation comprises a piece of independent research, directed through a series of one-to-one tutorials, and assessed entirely by coursework. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but it should be noted that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

<u>Mark:</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70%-100%	First class
60%-69%	Upper Second class
50%-59%	Lower Second class
40%-49%	Third class
35%-39%	Below Honours standard
0%-34%	Fail

Admission requirements

Any combination of 'A' levels (or equivalent) will be considered. However, English Language 'A' level will be considered an advantage. It is also recommended that applicants should have an A level (or equivalent) in one or more of the following: English Language, English Literature, combined English Language and Literature, a language other than English, Sociology.

Entrants to this programme will normally be required to have obtained:

GCSE English:	Grade C
UCAS Tariff:	260 points from 3 A Levels or 280 points from 3 A Levels and 1 AS Level.
International Baccalaureat:	Pass with 30 points
Irish Leaving Certificate:	Four B grades and one C grade
Access:	70% overall
Advanced GVNQ:	B in A level + Distinction in GNVQ (Adv) - 12 modules or Distinction + Pass 4 additional modules
Edexcel/BTEC:	Five Distinctions and the remainder at Merit level
Scottish Highers:	Four B grades
European Baccalaureat:	70% overall
German Abitur:	Pass with average of 2.4
Greek Apolytirion	17/20 + UCAS Tariff as above
Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level	

Mature and international applicants. It will be appreciated from the extensive list of qualification routes above that we welcome applications from candidates with a range of backgrounds, including mature candidates and those from other countries. While the list above is indicative, it is not intended to be exhaustive, and all such candidates can be sure that their applications will be considered individually and by taking account of particular circumstances. International candidates who are not offering one of the listed set of qualifications are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

The Admissions Secretary is Mrs Barbara Barnes, who will pass on any enquiries to the Admissions Tutor, and can be contacted by:

Telephone – (0118) 931 8141 (+44 118 prefix for callers from outside the UK)

Fax – (0118) 975 6506

Email – b.w.barnes@rdg.ac.uk

or by post.

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their Personal Tutors regularly to review their progress, and through the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students'

Union. All part-time students additionally have guidance and support provided by the Faculty Coordinator for Part-time Degrees.

At Part 1, students receive an induction course in Academic Writing. Each student is provided with a course handbook which contains full details of the degree programme, the staff and facilities in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, and a range of useful information including advice on note-taking in lectures, preparation of written work especially the dissertation, and dates of terms and examinations, and the University's procedure for assessment. Each Part of the programme has a Course Tutor to advise students on selection of modules, learning and assessment. Learning on core modules is supported by small group seminars. Learning is also supported by dedicated facilities in the School. The library of the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (SLALS) houses an important specialist collection of books, [journals](#), [dissertations](#) and [theses](#), reports and conference proceedings on Applied Linguistics and the Teaching and Learning of English. The Corpus Facility has 6 networked PCs that are intended in the first instance for students researching corpora and databases, such as the British National Corpus and CoBUILD. We also have our own research corpora and databases, and these can be accessed from these machines. The facility uses the very latest software in language and speech analysis. Also available for students are word-processing and statistics, e-mail, and Internet access. Further PCs are located in the student common room for student use. The Speech Research Laboratory is well equipped with a wide range of instrumentation for the investigation of many aspects of speech, and the technical staff and phonetics lecturers are available to advise and help with its setting up and use. The Communication Disorders Centre includes a speech and language therapy clinic in the local NHS Trust, and provides students with opportunities for learning and research. There is also a Language Acquisition Laboratory, which provides an essential testing ground for linguistic theories in this area.

Career prospects

The BA in Applied English Language Studies at Reading offers a firm foundation for further study in the humanities or social sciences, and a set of skills relevant to many careers and life-long learning. Potential careers for graduates will include: teaching English abroad, speech therapy, publishing, linguistic computing, journalism, the Civil Service, the media (including advertising, marketing and public relations) and information technology (including library work). The proposed programme is also likely to be of interest to students intending to become teachers (although policy on admitting graduates in subjects not named in the National Curriculum is changeable). The Teacher Training Agency and representatives of providers of Initial Teacher Training have been consulted, and have indicated that, provided graduates meet the specific requirements for entry to teacher training in force at the time, this programme is likely to constitute an appropriate first degree, particularly for entrants to the primary phase. The interdisciplinary nature of the degree, and the emphasis on transferable skills such as analysis of language data, including the use of IT, problem-solving, oral presentations and team-working, will produce graduates prepared for a wide range of professions, including those listed above.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

The School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies has exchange schemes under ERASMUS/SOCRATES with the following universities: Bergen, Groningen, Leuven, Siena, Toulouse le Mirail and Tubingen, and also has close academic links with universities in Barcelona, Padua, Venice, Oslo, Lund and Tromsø.

Educational aims of the programme

The main focus of the programme is the use of language in social contexts. A thorough grounding is provided in theories and descriptions of the phonology, grammar, and lexicon of English, the larger discursal structures of extended stretches of language in use, the interaction of language and other semiotic systems (such as the visual, the musical and the typographic), and relations between linguistic, educational, sociological and political analyses.

Although the language description aspects of the degree will mainly focus upon English, much of the content of the degree will be relevant to the study of other languages, and the degree will include modules focusing upon the changing relation between English and other languages in the contemporary world. In addition to the obligatory modules on core aspects of applied language studies, the new degree will offer optional modules focussing upon the role of language in information design, information technology, international communication, the media, and multicultural societies, and social exclusion and inclusion. The interdisciplinary and problem-oriented focus of the degree means that it can provide an unusually broad range of transferable skills, to develop students' confidence in their ability to work and learn effectively, both independently, and in cooperation with others; to provide students with the knowledge and experience necessary for further academic and professional study; to produce graduates with experiences and skills which will prepare them for effective participation in society.

By the end of the programme, successful students will have attained the following objectives: a detailed knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of applied linguistics; ability to describe instances of language in use and to relate them to their contexts; the capacity to undertake and successfully complete independent research.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the principles of phonological contrast and the organisation of the sound system of English. 2. principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse 3. the main areas of applied linguistic inquiry 4. the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making 5. issues relating to language education 6. a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied 7. the main theories of semiotics and their application to the description of a variety of text types in different media 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>1-6 are achieved through Part 1 modules <i>Sounds, Grammar and Meaning and Language in the Individual & Society</i>, Part 2 modules <i>Issues in Language & Society</i> and <i>Approaches to Discourse</i>, and the Part 3 module <i>Oracy and Literacy in Education</i>, by lectures and small group seminars. Further knowledge and understanding in areas 1-6 are offered in option modules at Parts 2 and 3, by lectures, small group seminars and guided assignments. 7 is achieved through the Part 3 module <i>Semiotics and Stylistics</i>, by lectures and small group seminars, and through further Part 2 and 3 option modules, by lectures and guided assignments.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>1-7 are assessed by coursework and written examination. Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute in theoretical and applied areas.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. analyse and solve problems
2. generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate
3. critically assess theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts
4. evaluate contrasting academic arguments and claims
5. negotiate both primary and secondary applied linguistic sources and demonstrate how they interrelate
6. develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues, and challenge received conclusions
7. develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation

plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1-6 are achieved through demonstration and example in lectures as well as experience in small group seminars, the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and the *Dissertation* at Part 3.

7 and 8 are achieved mainly through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.

3-6 are achieved through the progression of concepts particularly in the compulsory modules across Parts 1, 2 and 3. Further opportunities are offered through option modules, especially those in theoretical and applied areas at Parts 2 and 3.

Assessment

1-6 form part of the evaluation of the quality of students' coursework and their written examinations. Additionally, 7 and 8 are assessed through small-scale and subsequent larger project work, respectively, in the modules *Research Methods*, and the *Dissertation*

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. produce a phonological transcript of English speech
2. analyse English sentences
3. transcribe extended stretches of discourse using appropriate conventions
4. conduct a discourse analysis of both written and spoken communication including multi-modal texts.
5. assemble and assess the information contained in modern electronic linguistic corpora

prepare bibliographies and references

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is achieved through small group phonetics practical sessions, based on general information provided in the main core lectures on the sounds of language.

2 is achieved through compulsory modules *Sounds, Grammar and Meaning* and *English Grammar*.

3-5 are achieved through the compulsory modules *Approaches to Discourse* and *Semiotics and Stylistics*.

5-6 are achieved through introductory sessions and assignment in the module *Research Methods*, and through the option module *Corpus-Based Approaches to Language Description*.

Assessment

1-6 are assessed by assignment; and 6 additionally by evaluation of the *Dissertation*.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. use IT (including word-processing, internet search and communication and database analysis)
2. define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by methods appropriate to the topic
3. assess the effectiveness of given instances of spoken, written and multi-modal texts
4. work as part of a team
5. use library resources
6. manage time
7. formulate and implement career plans

deploy critical awareness of language and society in effective communication in a range of career contexts

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1-6 are achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*

2, 5 and 6 are additionally achieved through the *Dissertation*

3 is additionally achieved in a number of option modules and in the compulsory module *Semiotics and Stylistics*.

5 and 6 are also required for successful execution of assignments throughout the programme

7 is achieved through the 5-credit Part 2 distributed module *Career Management Skills*

8 will be addressed throughout the course and further developed in the *Career Management Skills Module*.

Assessment

1 is assessed by coursework and is also assessable in the *Dissertation*

2 is assessed by group presentation and individual writing up of the project carried out in the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and in the *Dissertation*

3 is assessed by coursework and examination on relevant modules

4-6 are not specifically assessed but contribute to success in forms of assessment generally

7 is assessed by three equally weighted assignments

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.