

**BA Applied English Language Studies  
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9**

**UCAS code:**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	5 years
Date of specification:	20/Aug/2010
Programme Director:	Dr Jane Setter
Programme Advisor:	Dr C Furness
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	

**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**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team-working, and use of information technology and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

**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 listing the Part 1 Examination in order to preview 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.

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) the relation of knowledge about language of the mind. 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 yet flexible 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, and (b) provides a broad overview of the scope of Applied English Language Studies and introduces a sociolinguistic perspective to the study of language. Part 2 provides further grounding in English phonology and grammar, and adds to this theory and practice in psycholinguistics, 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 provides one-to-one tutorials to enable students to prepare and write about a more specialised research topic for their dissertation. 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 such as semiotics, stylistics, research topics in grammar and forensic linguistics. There is greater opportunity at Part 3 for students to select the topics they prefer to study, and for guided independent study.

Students take 120 credits in Part 3, made up as indicated.

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

The maximum number of credits which may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University is 40, with no more than 20 credits in any one subject area.

Up to 40 credits may be taken elsewhere in the University where modules are indicated on the list of options.

Up to 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University which are not listed, subject to the agreement of the Programme Director.

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

Compulsory module totalling 40 credits

Autumn and Spring terms:

LS3DI	Dissertation	40	6
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Optional modules totalling 80 credits, selected from a list available from within the Department and other Departments and Schools offering modules on the programme, subject to availability.

### **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, i.e. LS2SG and LS1ELS, 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.

To proceed to Part 2, a student must (a) obtain an average of at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules, and (b) achieve an overall average of at least 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination. To proceed to Part 3,

a student must obtain a weighted average of at least 40% in each of the Part 2 modules LS2EG, LS2EP, LS2SL and LS2LM, and achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2. In each case, the student must have no module mark less than 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

### **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:

Mark: Interpretation  
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**

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

GCSE English: Grade C

UCAS Tariff: 300 points from 3 A Levels or 320 points from 3 A Levels and 1 AS Level, including 80 points (Grade C) in English Language, English Literature or English Language & Literature

International Baccalaureat: Pass with 25 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: ABBBB

Access: Students graduating from Access programmes will be considered on an individual basis

Edexcel/BTEC (Level 3): Distinction Distinction Merit

Scottish (Advanced) Highers: 300 UCAS points from three Advanced Highers, or from five Highers

European Baccalaureat: 75% overall

German Abitur: Pass with average of 2.2

Greek Apolytirion: 17/20 + one or two A Levels or equivalent

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 Janice Brooks, who will pass on any enquiries to the Admissions Tutor, and can be contacted by:

Telephone - (0118) 378 8123 (+44 118 prefix for callers from outside the UK)

Email - [j.i.brooks@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:j.i.brooks@rdg.ac.uk)

or by post.

### **Admissions Tutor:**

### **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 4,000 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 by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical

Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online ([www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk](http://www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk)), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student website ([www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)).

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### **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**

N/A

### **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**

**A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

the principles of phonological contrast and the organisation of the sound system of English.  
principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse  
the main areas of applied linguistic inquiry  
the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making  
a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied  
ways in which the mind acquires, stores and processes language, drawing on theories from linguistics, psychology, speech science and neuroscience.

1-6 are achieved through Part 1 modules Sounds, Grammar and Meaning and Language in the Individual & Society and by Part 2 modules Sociolinguistics, Language and the Mind, English Grammar and English Phonology and 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. 6 is achieved through the Part 2 core module Language and the Mind with an optional module at Part 3, Psycholinguistics, which are both lecture based with guided assignments.

#### *Assessment*

1-6 are assessed by coursework and written examination. Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute in theoretical and applied areas.

### **Skills and other attributes**

#### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to:***

analyse and solve problems  
generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate  
critically assess theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts  
evaluate contrasting academic arguments and claims  
negotiate both primary and secondary applied linguistic sources and demonstrate how they interrelate  
develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues, and challenge received conclusions  
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:***

produce a phonological transcript of English speech  
analyse English sentences  
analyse and interpret linguistic data from various psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic perspectives.  
conduct a discourse analysis of both written and spoken communication including multi-modal texts.  
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 is achieved through the compulsory Part 2 modules Language and the Mind and Sociolinguistics. Each are accompanied by further optional modules at Parts 2 and 3.  
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:**

use IT (including word-processing, internet search and communication and database analysis)  
define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by methods appropriate to the topic  
assess the effectiveness of given instances of spoken, written and multi-modal texts  
work as part of a team  
use library resources  
manage time  
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 including 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 be expected 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 the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**