M(Res) Applied Linguistics (full-time)
For students entering in 2017/8

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	15/Aug/2017
Programme Director:	Dr Jackie Laws
Board of Studies:	Applied Linguistics

Summary of programme aims
This programme is intended as intensive training for those wishing to pursue doctoral studies in Applied Linguistics. It aims to provide students with a range of historical and theoretical perspectives, and specialist knowledge in particular areas of applied linguistics research, and with technical expertise in related research methods. The programme also aims to foster an independent approach to learning.

Transferable skills
The programme has been conceived as preparation for advanced research in applied linguistics. Transferable skills are to be seen in relation to this overall conception, and are as follows:
- practical skills in the analysis of language
- an ability to derive research questions from a body of relevant literature
- an ability to design a substantial piece of research, both for an MRes dissertation and a PhD thesis
- the ability to synthesise, analyse and evaluate information and theoretical claims
- critical skills (demonstrated both in written presentations and in the oral evaluation of the work of fellow students and others)
- written communication skills (ranging from report writing, through medium-length essays evaluating arguments, to large-scale sustained argumentation)
- oral communication skills (to different types of audience and in different formats)
- ability to apply a range of data handling and analysis techniques interpersonal skills and skills in project management and teamwork
- bibliographic skills (library, searches, Internet, and referencing and indexing software)
- an understanding of ethical issues in research
- an understanding of intellectual property rights

Programme content

Compulsory modules
Autumn term

LSMILR	Issues in Linguistic Research	10	7

Autumn, Spring, Summer term and Vacation

LSMDNR	Dissertation (MRes)	110	7

Option modules
Students choose two option modules from the following list. These modules may run in the Autumn or Spring term provided the requirement for the minimum number of students is met. (*Please note that not all options are offered each year.*)

LSMCLR	Child Language Development	30	7
LSMSLR	Second Language Learning Principles	30	7
LSMCBLR	Corpus-based Approaches to Language Description	30	7
LSMVOR	The Teaching and Learning of Vocabulary	30	7
LSMDTR	Discourse Analysis for Language Teachers	30	7
LSMSOR	Sociolinguistics	30	7

LSMEWR	English in the World	30	7
LSMTPR	Language Testing Principles	30	7
LSMESR	English for Specific Purposes	30	7
LSMWLR	Written Language (Reading & Writing)	30	7
LSMLCR	Language Curriculum Design	30	7
LSMITR	Information Technology for Language Teaching	30	7
LSMSPR	Spoken Language	30	7
LSMYLR	Teaching Young Learners	30	7

These modules incorporate teaching on modules provided for the MA in TESOL and MA in Applied Linguistics programmes (each of the codes given is the code for an existing MA module, with the addition of the letter R in final position, to indicate 'Research'.) These are 20 credit modules, and the MRes module will follow the standard assessment for the module with the addition of a further requirement, the writing of an extended annotated bibliography in the module subject area, worth 10 credits.

Part-time or modular arrangements
The programme is offered on a part-time basis, normally over a period of up to 24 months. The structure of these arrangements is as follows:
Part-time (24 months):
Year 1: All modules excluding the Full Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation components of LSMDNR
Year 2: The Full Dissertation Proposal and the Dissertation components of LSMDNR

Summary of Teaching and Assessment
Modules are taught by lectures, seminars and small group practical work. One, Essentials of Research Methods, is taught via the web as well as face-to-face in tutorials. The Dissertation module additionally is supported by individual supervision. The majority of modules are assessed wholly by coursework. Full details are given in the module descriptions.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:
Mark Interpretation
70 - 100% Distinction
60 - 69% Merit
50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)
Failing categories
40 - 49% Work below threshold standard
0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degrees
To pass the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 in the compulsory module LSMILR, and the Essentials of Research Methods and Full Dissertation Proposal elements of the Dissertation (MRes) module LSMDSR. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.
Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a Master's degree with a good Merit grade (at least 65% overall including at least 65% for the dissertation) in Linguistics, Applied Linguistics or a related subject, especially one allied to the student's intended research area. With respect to English Language proficiency, applicants will be required to have an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with no sub-component less than 6.5.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Jacqueline Laws

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. 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 Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials.

Within the School, there are considerable computing and technical facilities, including a well-equipped Language Research Laboratory which offers a range of computational and electronic hardware, and access to well-known language corpora, as well as a number of our own research databases. The School's computers host major statistical packages, such as Minitab and SPSS.

Each student is provided with a course handbook which contains full details of the degree programme, the staff and facilities in the School of Languages and European Studies, and a range of useful information including advice on preparation and presentation of written work, especially the dissertation, dates of terms and examinations, and assessment procedures and criteria. Each student is also provided with a Catalogue of core and option modules available to them, giving outlines and assessment details. The Programme Director and/or Personal Tutors will advise students on selection of modules, and on general matters related to learning and assessment. In addition, a series of Study Skills classes is provided in the Autumn Term to give guidance on note-taking and assignment preparation and writing. Module lecturers will advise students on preparation for their assignments or examinations.

Career prospects
Since the programme is primarily intended as research training, the focus must be on the outcomes in this area. Students will be fully equipped to undertake doctoral research in particular branches of applied linguistics. However, it is also envisaged that the skills acquired (specialist and generic) will be applicable to careers involving research, management, assessment, materials writing, translation, or consultancy related to language matters.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
None.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Paradigms in social science research, particularly the nature of and relationship between qualitative and quantitative research	Web delivery - self-study module Lectures Tutorials
2. Contemporary descriptive linguistics	
3. Key issues in applied linguistics	*Assessment*
4. Detailed subject-specific substantive knowledge	3,000-4,000 word assignments for option modules
5. Current issues in the student's intended research subject	and an annotated bibliography Examination Dissertation Skills and other attributes

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Develop a coherent and logical discussion	Web delivery - self-study module

2. Analyse and solve problems

3. Operationalize abstract concepts for testing of hypotheses

4. Assimilate rapidly-evolving concepts

5. Synthesise and evaluate information from different sources

6. Generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others

7. Apply theoretical concepts and research-based information to the handling of subject-specific problems and issues

8. Plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic

9. Evaluate theory in the light of data

Lectures
Tutorials

Assessment
3,000-4,000 word assignments for option modules and an annotated bibliography
Examination
Dissertation

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Perform a grammatical analysis of some spoken or written text of English or another language

2. Carry out a statistical analysis of language or language-related data, using appropriate descriptive and/or inferential statistics

Different specific skills will be acquired depending on pathway and option modules taken. These may include:

3. Derive information from electronic linguistic corpora

4. Transcribe a recording of spoken English using the International Phonetic Alphabet

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Web delivery - self-study module
Lectures
Tutorials

Assessment
Oral presentation of Full Dissertation Proposal (3, 10)
Dissertation (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
Assignments (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9)

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Use IT, including word processing and standard and statistical software

2. Define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by means of the formulation of research questions and the establishment of an appropriate methodology

3. Give oral presentations

4. Present arguments cogently in writing

5. Take a critical stance to literature read

6. Apply a range of bibliographic resources, including use of electronic resources

7. Manage time

8. Evaluate ethical issues in research

9. Manage research

10. Interpersonal skills

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Web delivery - self-study module
Lectures
Tutorials

Assessment
3,000-4,000 word assignments for option modules and an annotated bibliography
Examination
Dissertation

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.