Programme Specification

MSc Language Sciences (full-time)   **PFTZLANGSCHM**
MSc Language Sciences (part-time)   **PPTZLANGSCHM**

For students entering in September 2018

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	12 months (full time), 24 months (part time)
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content
The purpose of this programme is to prepare graduates in linguistics, speech and language therapy, psychology, health science, education and allied disciplines for research-related careers in Language Sciences. The students choose one of three streams: the neuroscience stream, the developmental stream, or the multilingualism stream. The neuroscience stream will introduce the students to the current advances in neuroscience research including functional MRI and electrophysiology of language. The developmental stream will focus on language development and disorders, including disorders of fluency. The multilingualism stream provides a flexible multi-disciplinary course focusing on linguistic, cognitive, and pedagogical aspects of multilingualism, as well as research training in this area. The programme provides a theoretical background and practical experience for students to realise their potential as independent researchers or clinicians, and to undertake advanced research in neuroscience, language development, or multilingualism. The expected outcomes are that students should acquire and demonstrate: • Appreciation of the theoretical and philosophical context in which research is designed, conducted, and interpreted. • Competence in and understanding of a range of research methods, and detailed expertise in a subset relevant to the student's own research interests. • In-depth knowledge of the work either by language scientists or by neuroscientists on speech and language and awareness of possibilities and limitations of using imaging technology in studying language processing in typical, atypical, and multilingual populations. • The ability to synthesise, analyse, interpret and evaluate information and theoretical claims. • Expertise in data management and analysis, and awareness of issues affecting data interpretation. • Understanding of ethical issues in research and intellectual property rights. • Competence in research management.

- Written and oral skills for disseminating research outputs to different types of audience and in different formats.
- Awareness of issues relevant to the pursuit of a research career.
- Acquisition of a broad range of transferable employment-related skills.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory Modules:

Compulsory modules for neuroscience stream

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PLMRT	Research Methods and Transferable Skills	10	7
PYM0NS	Methods in Neuroscience	10	7
PLMFG	Foundations of Grammar	10	7
PLMEL	Electrophysiology of Language	10	7
PLMLPR	Language Processing	20	7
PLMPP	Phonetics and Phonology	10	7
PLMRDN	Research and Dissertation	60	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Compulsory modules for language development and breakdown stream

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PLMRT	Research Methods and Transferable Skills	10	7
PLMCLA	Child Language Acquisition	10	7
PLMFG	Foundations of Grammar	10	7
PLMISL	Introduction to Speech and Language Pathology	10	7
PLMLPR	Language Processing	20	7
PLMPP	Phonetics and Phonology	10	7
PLMRDN	Research and Dissertation	60	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Compulsory Modules - Multilingualism stream

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PLMRT	Research Methods and Transferable Skills	10	7
PLMFG	Foundations of Grammar	10	7
PLMCLA	Child Language Acquisition	10	7
PLMLPR	Language Processing	20	7
PLMRDN	Research and Dissertation	60	7
PLMML	Multilingualism and Impairment Across the Lifespan	20	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be undertaken over two years on a part-time basis. Selection of modules between the two years will be agreed between the student, Programme Director and the Board of Studies, at the commencement of the course. It is anticipated that students will normally complete at least 80 credits' worth of modules in Year 1. Modules will be assessed in the year that they are studied. Dissertation (PLMRDN) must be taken in year 2.

Additional costs of the programme

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2018.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

There are ample placement opportunities to gain first-hand research experience within the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences within the students chosen sub-discipline of the Language Sciences. This may include placements within the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN), the Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism (CeLM), or one of the NHS clinics and other labs within the school.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Teaching is by a variety of methods, including lectures, small group seminars, workshops, individual feedback on written work, and one-to -one supervision.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 180-200 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written assignments, short notes examinations, open-book tests, submission of practical reports, oral presentations, and submission of project dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

There are no specific requirements for progression, but students should normally have completed at least 80 credits' worth of modules in the first year to progress into year 2.

Classification

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 Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

(i)   gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
(ii)   a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
(iii)   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 50 credits; and
(iv)   students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
(ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
(iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 50 credits; and
(iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
(ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
(iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 50 credits; and
(iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
(ii) In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 50 credits; and
(iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
(ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 50 credits; and
(iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
(ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 50 credits; and
(iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.