

## Programme Specification

MSc Language Sciences (full-time)

PFTZLANGSCHM

MSc Language Sciences (part-time)

PPTZLANGSCHM

**For students entering in 2021/22**

**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	MSc Language Sciences (full-time) - 12 months MSc Language Sciences (part-time) - 2 years
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 of Language stream, the Language Development and Breakdown stream, or the Multilingualism stream. The Neuroscience of Language stream will introduce students to current advances in the cognitive neuroscience of language including functional/structural MRI and the electrophysiology of language. The Language Development and Breakdown stream focuses on language development and disorders, including disorders of fluency. The Multilingualism stream provides a flexible multi-disciplinary course focusing on the linguistic and cognitive 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	Title	Credits	Level
PLMFG	Foundations of Grammar	10	7
PLMLPR	Language Processing	20	7
PLMNL	Neuroscience of Language	20	7
PYMMCN	Methods in Cognition and Neuroscience	10	7
PYM0PL	Research Placement	20	7
PYM0PP	Project Preparation	10	7
PLMRDN	Research and Dissertation	60	7

*The remaining 30 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	Title	Credits	Level
PLMFG	Foundations of Grammar	10	7
PLMLPR	Language Processing	20	7
PLMISLR	Introduction to Speech and Language Pathology	20	7
PLMCLA	Child Language Acquisition	10	7
PYM0PL	Research Placement	20	7
PYM0PP	Project Preparation	10	7
PLMRDN	Research and Dissertation	60	7

*The remaining 30 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	Title	Credits	Level
PLMFG	Foundations of Grammar	10	7
PLMLPR	Language Processing	20	7
PLMML	Multilingualism and Impairment Across the Lifespan	20	7
PLMCLA	Child Language Acquisition	10	7
PYM0PL	Research Placement	10	7
PLMRDN	Research and Dissertation	60	7
PYM0PP	Project Preparation	10	7

*The remaining 30 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) and Project Preparation (PYM0PP) 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 2020.

### **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**

All students on the course take a compulsory 20 credit placement module that provides an opportunity to gain first-hand research experience within the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences in the student's 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.

### **Study abroad opportunities**

N/A

### **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**

#### **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.

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

MSc Language Sciences (full-time) for students entering in session 2021/22  
25 September 2020

© The University of Reading 2020