Programme Specification

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

For students entering in 2024/25

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
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content
The MSc in Language Sciences aims to prepare graduates in linguistics, psychology, language therapy, language education and allied disciplines for research-related careers in the language sciences and other data-science/research careers more broadly. You will benefit from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences' international expertise in language science, especially in language impairment and language therapy, the cognitive and neuroscientific underpinnings of language processing, and multilingualism. You will cover core content in linguistics, psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics, language development and disorders, multilingualism, and research methods. Our teaching emphasises application of the language sciences to our understanding of the cognitive and neurological mechanisms that underlie language in different populations of speakers, and our understanding of language impairment and therapy. You will not only learn about contemporary issues in the language sciences but also, through an empirical project, learn how to conduct your own research. By successful completion of the programme, graduates will be ready for doctoral research and research-related careers in the language sciences. In the first semester, you will cover core content in the language sciences, including syntax, phonetics and phonology, the neuroscience of language, and multilingualism. You will begin to learn and apply research methods, data manipulation and statistics, and will have the opportunity to discuss research project opportunities with potential supervisors. In the second semester, you will cover contemporary research in psycholinguistics, including language acquisition and processing in different populations, and language disorders. You will also further specialise your understanding by choosing optional modules based on your own interests. You will develop your research question(s) and methodology for your project with your supervisor. During the summer, you will develop mastery of your research skills. You will conduct your own empirical research project that is written up as a dissertation. By the end of the programme, you will have advanced understanding in the language sciences and in particular in the research topic of your dissertation and will have gained the practical

skills required to conduct your own research, including all stages of research design, data collection, data management and analysis, and dissemination.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MSc Language Sciences (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Advanced critical understanding and ability to critically evaluate contemporary research and theory in the language sciences
2	An ability to synthesise and evaluate different types of evidence in theoretical and applied debates in the language sciences
3	Deep, critical understanding of research methods used in the language sciences, with practical expertise of utilising a subset of these methods
4	An ability to develop your own research questions, identify and apply an appropriate research design to address these questions
5	The ability to undertake each stage of an empirical research project, namely conceptualisation and design, consideration of research ethics, data collection and analysis, and dissemination via different means
6	Transferrable research methods, data management and statistical analysis skills that can be applied to various research/data-science related careers
7	Communicate clearly and confidently with a range of audiences, in both oral and written formats

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

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

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PLMFLP	Foundations of Linguistics, Phonetics and Phonology	20	M
PLMISLR	Introduction to Speech and Language Pathology	20	M
PLMLAP	Language Acquisition and Processing	20	M
PLMML	Multilingualism and Impairment Across the Lifespan	20	M
PLMNL	Neuroscience of Language	20	M
PLMRDN	Research and Dissertation	60	M

The remaining 20 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.

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 and Programme Director, 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. The Research and Dissertation module (PLMRDN) must be taken in year 2.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

Students will experience a range of approaches to teaching and learning, including technology enhanced learning, tailored to help students succeed in their own guided, independent study and to ensuring the programme's learning outcomes are met. Digital learning activities, with online content backed up by face-to-face teaching, will be used for some modules where appropriate. Students will be taught by research-active experts in their relevant fields, who will be able to provide tailored guidance to students based on their research expertise. All students will be assigned an academic tutor for the duration of their study, who will provide pastoral care and guidance throughout the student journey.

Core content will be delivered via lectures and screencasts, backed-up with smaller group, more interactive work in seminars. Interactive seminar work will involve activities such as completing group assignments, group discussion of research papers and original research, and presentations. Research methods and statistics will be taught via lectures and workshops, where students will gain practical experience in conducting research and statistical analysis using appropriate software.

A key aspect of research methods training is students gaining practical experience in conducting research. During their dissertation, students will work closely with a supervisor who will guide them in completing all aspects of a research project. During their dissertation, students will gain specialised one-to-one support from their supervisor in all aspects of conducting an empirical research project. These teaching, learning and training activities are designed to ensure student learning on the MSc in Language Sciences is at all stages enhanced and guided by the research environment and ongoing research activities in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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, examinations and tests, including 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 part-time 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

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits
AND
A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate
(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

Additional costs of the programme

N/A

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 2023.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <ins>http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/</ins>. 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 2024/25
8 August 2023