Programme Specification

MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (full-time)	PFTZTESOLXHM
MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (part-time)	PPTZTESOLXHM

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	MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (full-time) - 12 months MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September and January
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The MA in TESOL aims to offer students comprehensive training in the principles and practices of language teaching and learning as well as the opportunity to engage in an in-depth study of particular areas of language teaching or other language related issues from language acquisition to corpus analysis and discourse analysis. The program is designed to prepare students for careers in teaching requiring specialised linguistic knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge to particular educational and sociolinguistics contexts.

The program offers students opportunities to deepen their knowledge and develop their skills through practical learning activities, research projects and exposure to real-world classrooms. The range of optional modules allows students to organise their studies in ways commensurate with their career goals. Alumni have found jobs in sectors such as publishing, media and communications, teaching, NGO and charity sectors, government and policy as well as teacher training, materials design, assessment design and advocacy. The program has two tracks: one focusing more on training students to become (teacher-)researchers, and the other focused on training students to be teachers-practitioners.

In the first semester of the program, students are trained in the description and analysis of language and provided with an overview of the main principles of language learning. In the second semester, they focus on aspects of TESOL that interest them through a combination of optional modules and are also given training in research methods. The program culminates with either a dissertation in which students work closely with a mentor to design and carry out a piece of original research, or a teaching portfolio containing lesson plans, learner needs analyses, lesson observations, and reflections.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (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	**Explain** the system of English (phonetics, phonology, grammar and syntax) and theories of Second Language Acquisition and their contributions to teaching and learning practice in TESOL
2	**Distinguish between** different types of qualitative and quantitative research and use appropriate techniques of data gathering; **apply** basic descriptive and inferential statistical methods or commonly applied qualitative methods
3	**Synthesise** and **evaluate** information from different sources
4	**Interpret** and **critique** issues which arise from research and practice in TESOL, including ethical considerations
5	**Apply** theoretical concepts and research-based information to the handling of real-life pedagogical problems and issues in TESOL practice
6	**Design** and **evaluate** and a syllabus and/or materials, including tests, for TESOL practice on the basis of a needs analysis and assessment of resources and other contextual factors
7	**Use** IT (including library databases, statistical packages and, corpus tools)
8	**Manage time** efficiently when working individually or in teams

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
LSMAPAL	Academic Practices in Applied Linguistics	0	M
LSMDIS	Dissertation	60	M
LSMFLS	Foundations of Language Study	20	M
LSMLCL	Language Curriculum Design	20	M
LSMRDM	Research Design Methods	20	M
LSMSL	Second Language Learning Principles	20	M

Compulsory Modules for MA TESOL Portfolio:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LSMSL	Second Language Learning Principles	20	7
LSMFLS	Foundations of Language Study	20	7
LSMRDM	Research Design Methods	20	7
LSMDIP	Portfolio	60	7
LSMLST	Issues in Language Skills Teaching	20	7
LSMAPAL	Academic Practices in Applied Linguistics	0	7

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics or a selection of modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences; from the list of optional modules from the School of Literature and Languages or from an approved list of modules.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is offered on campus 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: 2 compulsory taught modules and 1-2 option modules; Year 2: 2 compulsory taught modules (including Research Design) and 1-2 option modules + dissertation/language teaching portfolio

Placement opportunities

Dissertation opportunity (placement) with British Council Assessment Research Group. Two students each year from the Language Testing and Assessment (LSMTP) module will be selected by MA Programme Director, LSMTP module convener and member(s) of the British Council Assessment Research Group

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

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

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 examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

N/A

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

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £35 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost from per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

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 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.

MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (full-time) for students entering in session 2024/25
3 August 2023