

Programme Specification

MA in Applied Linguistics (full-time)

PFTAPLINGM

MA in Applied Linguistics (part-time)

PPTAPLINGM

For students entering in 2027/28

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 in Applied Linguistics (full-time) - 1 years MA in Applied Linguistics (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September and February
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The MA in Applied Linguistics aims to offer students comprehensive training in the principles and practices of Applied Linguistics as well as the opportunity to engage in in-depth study of particular areas of Applied Linguistics including language acquisition, sociolinguistics, corpus analysis, discourse analysis, and intercultural communication. The program is designed to prepare students for a range of careers requiring specialised linguistic knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge to solving practical problems.

The program offers students opportunities to deepen their knowledge and develop their skills through practical learning activities, research projects and exposure to real-world contexts. 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 also includes an independent research project which helps to prepare students for possible PhD study.

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 theories and approaches in Applied Linguistics. In the second semester, they focus on aspects of Applied Linguistics that interest them through a combination of optional modules, and are also given training in research methods. The program culminates with a dissertation in which students work closely with a mentor to design and carry out a piece of original research.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MA in Applied Linguistics (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 language (phonetics, phonology, grammar and syntax) and apply the main theoretical frameworks and analytical approaches used in Applied Linguistics to investigate real-world problems, issues and contexts to which they are relevant
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	Interpret and critique issues which arise from research and practice in Applied Linguistics, including ethical considerations, based on the soundness of the reasoning and the quality of the evidence presented.
4	Synthesise and evaluate information from different sources
5	Review and evaluate research in applied linguistics and apply that research to practice in classrooms, workplaces and other relevant settings.
6	Design, conduct and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic or issue involving aspects of language use in a particular educational or professional setting
7	Use IT (including library databases, statistical packages and, corpus tools)
8	Manage time efficiently when working individually or in team

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
ILMATLN	Academic Writing for Applied Linguistics and TESOL	0	M
LSMDIS	Dissertation	60	M
LSMFLS	Foundations of Language Study	20	M
LSMPAL	Principles of Applied Linguistics	20	M
LSMRDM	Research Design Methods	20	M
LSMSOC	Sociolinguistics	20	M

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 or from an approved list of modules. Students who have studied and passed the PGCert Language Assessment will replace the 60 credit Dissertation module with a 40 credit Dissertation module.

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.

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

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 Master's 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) no 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

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, 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) no 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

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

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. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 in Applied Linguistics (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

4 August 2026

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