

Programme Specification

MA English Language Education (in Guangdong) (full-time)

PFTZENGLLEDDM

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 English Language Education (in Guangdong) (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	October
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The purpose of the programme is to enable new or past graduates and practising primary and secondary school teachers to deepen their understanding of issues related to the teaching and learning of English as a Foreign Language in schools in the People's Republic of China. This is achieved by encouraging students to explore the practical applications of the research literature relating to education, English language teaching and second language acquisition, and also drawing upon their own experience of teaching and/or learning languages. Graduates of the programme will acquire an in-depth understanding of the underlying principles of English language education and their application. This will enable them to develop their own pedagogical effectiveness and research capability. It is envisaged that graduates of the programme will be able to play leading roles in innovation and reform in English language education and sharing innovative practice in the institutions in which they teach.

In addition to the 6 compulsory modules listed below, students will be required to take 2 non-credit bearing modules, to be offered by GDUFS, as required by the Chinese Ministry of Education. This is outside of the University of Reading qualification.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MA English Language Education (in Guangdong) (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	Discuss advanced concepts, theories, and practices relating to English language education.
2	Explain the research process, including ethical issues in research and what counts as evidence.

3	Apply the principles of educational assessment to the English as a Foreign Language context.
4	Critically evaluate empirical research and theories in an area of English language education.
5	Make links between theory and practice in English language teaching.
6	Perform advanced searches for information relevant to specific topics within English language education, using library and other academic resources.
7	Develop appropriate research instruments and apply them to collect and analyse qualitative and/or quantitative research data using computer software as appropriate.
8	Communicate effectively in written English, applying the conventions of academic writing where appropriate, and in oral presentations in English.

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 six compulsory modules as listed below.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EDM084	Second Language Teaching and Learning	40	M
EDM095	Developing expertise in teaching	20	M
EDM096	Academic English and Study Skills	20	M
EDM097	English Language Education Dissertation	60	M
EDM101	Assessment and Measurement	20	M
EDM102	Research Methods in English Language Education	20	M

Students are also required to take the following compulsory modules as required by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

GDUFS Module Code	Name	UoR Credits	GDUFS Credits	Level
00002101	Theory and Practice of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era (GDUFS offered)	0	2	7
00002103	Marxism and Social Science Methodology (GDUFS offered)	0	1	7

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is not available as a part-time option.

Placement opportunities
N/A

Study abroad opportunities
If students choose to spend a period of time at the University of Reading with the prior consent of the University of Reading and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, arrangement will be made in advance with relevant support services to ensure they are supported at a level appropriate for study abroad students.

Optional modules
There are no optional modules for this programme. All modules (as listed above) are compulsory.

Teaching and learning delivery
The programme is delivered in Guangzhou, China, jointly by the University of Reading and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. The medium of instruction and communication will be English, as is the norm in the Faculty of English Language and Culture. Teaching and supervision are by a variety of methods including lectures, seminars, individual tutorials (both face-to-face and electronically) and written feedback. Except for one module (EDM101 Assessment and measurement) and the two non-credit bearing modules taught solely by the staff of the Faculty of English Language and Culture of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies; all other modules are delivered jointly by the University Reading and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. 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 200 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake 1600 hours of 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. 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, class tests, oral presentations and the dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions

Progression
Students may exit after three modules (60 credits) with a Postgraduate Certificate or with a Postgraduate Diploma after six (120 credits). The dissertation will normally be the last piece of work submitted for assessment.

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% 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

Students are not required to purchase any textbooks for this course, although there may be other books/resources, which you would find it convenient to buy. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the main library at GDUFS and the specialist library in the Faculty of English Language and Culture. The library website of the University of Reading provides access to a number of e-resources including online databases in Education.

Printing and photocopying costs 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.

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29 July 2026

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