

Programme Specification

PGCert Language Assessment (full-time)

PFTZLANGAXHC

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	PGCert Language Assessment (full-time) - 3 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The PGCert in Language Assessment aims to offer students comprehensive training in the principles and practices of language testing and assessment as well as the opportunity to engage in an in-depth study of test evaluation and test design. The programme will focus on different areas of testing and assessment including different test types and test methods, educational and social aspects of language testing, testing the language skills and test design and development. The program is designed to prepare students for a range of careers requiring specialised testing and assessment knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge to solving practical problems in educational and assessment contexts.

The program offers students opportunities to deepen their knowledge and develop their skills through practical learning activities, projects and exposure to real-world language tests. The first two modules provide a solid understanding and knowledge of the principles of language testing and assessment, while the third module offers students with practical skills in test evaluation, test results analysis and test design. The modules will enhance the students' knowledge and skills corresponding with their career goals. The programme will further provide students with knowledge and skills needed to continue to study for an MA in a relevant area, for example, our own MA TESOL or MA Applied Linguistics.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-PGCert Language Assessment (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 different test purposes and test methods and apply the main theoretical frameworks to evaluate language tests widely used around the world

2	Distinguish between different types of tests and their characteristics; apply this knowledge when evaluating and using tests in own practice
3	Interpret and critique issues which arise from research and practice in Language Assessment, including validity, reliability, fairness and impact of tests and test results
4	Synthesise and evaluate different language tests and assessment processes
5	Review and evaluate key characteristics of good language tests and apply that research to practice in classrooms, workplaces and other relevant settings.
6	Design and develop part(s) or evaluate the design and development of parts of a language test for professional use
7	Communicate ideas in a logical way, both orally and written to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

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 60 credits, allocated in three compulsory modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
LSMLAP	Language Assessment in Practice	20	M
LSMPRJ	Language Testing Project (Summer period)	20	M
LSMTP	Language Testing Principles	20	M
There are no additional module requirements.			
Credits from the PGCert can be used towards studying for a PG Diploma or an MA in a relevant discipline.			
Part-time or flexible modular arrangements			
‘This is typically a 3-months full time programme. In line with the University’s Policy on and procedures for suspension, students normally have a maximum of one year in which to complete credits to qualify for the award of Postgraduate Certificate.’			

Placement opportunities
N/A

Study abroad opportunities
N/A

Optional modules
There are no optional modules.

Teaching and learning delivery
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
Assessments will be by a variety of methods, including: (a) an in-class test; (b) essays, and a project. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions. Assessment criteria for each module will be discussed when the module assessments are introduced. Each module includes at least one formal formative assessment.

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 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 £25 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. Most of the essential readings to support your study are available through UoR online library resources. 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.

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28 July 2026

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