

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA English Linguistics
2	Course Code	PT1828
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	N/A

6	Course Description
	<p>The MA in English Linguistics is a distance learning course delivered via the University's virtual learning environment with guided content developed exclusively for our MA students. There are no scheduled sessions, so you can work at your own pace fitting your study around work and other commitments. You can choose to study full-time or part-time, with different options available for January and September entry points.</p> <p>What is covered in the course?</p> <p>This course will enable you to develop advanced analytical skills and in-depth linguistic knowledge, and to gain experience as an independent researcher.</p> <p>The course begins with the 40-credit Language Description module, designed to give you confidence in working with the essential building blocks of linguistic analysis: grammar, morphology, and phonology. You will then study the 20-credit module Data, Theory & Method, which covers topics such as hypothesis testing, the role of linguistic theory, data collection, academic referencing and research ethics. The module will help you critique theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches and further develop your analytical skills.</p> <p>Upon completing the first two modules and enhancing your skills in linguistic analysis and research methods, the course progresses with three 20-credit modules, each offering an opportunity to further strengthen your analytical and research skills across a wide range of professional contexts: Sociolinguistics, Second Language Acquisition and Corpus Linguistics. These modules will enable you to tailor your studies to your individual interests and career aspirations.</p> <p>The final module is a 60-credit module Major Project, which involves writing a dissertation and completing a piece of original research on a topic of your choice.</p> <p>One of the key strengths of the course is that it is taught by leading authorities on the subjects covered. Our teaching staff are active researchers who publish world-leading journal articles, chapters and books. This research feeds directly into the MA learning materials.</p> <p>You will be fully supported by a tutor assigned to you when you begin each module who can be contacted by email. There is no requirement for you to attend the University and there are no scheduled sessions online either, which means that you are fully in charge of your schedule and can complete the course irrespective of your location or time zone.</p>

	<p>Course structure</p> <p>The course is designed to be completed in 12, 18, 24 or 36 months with start in September or January.</p> <p>If you leave the course without completing successfully 180 credits, you may be entitled to be awarded an exit award of either Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) or a Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits) providing you have passed the relevant modules for these stages.</p> <p>For the PGCert award, you need to complete 60 credits for two core modules: Language Description (40 credit module); Data, Theory & Method in Linguistics (20 credit module).</p> <p>For the PGDip award, you need to achieve a further 60 credits by completing the following three modules (20 credits each): Sociolinguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Corpus Linguistics.</p> <p>For the MA award, you also need to complete the 60 credit Major Project (Dissertation).</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Arts	Level 7	180
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate	Level 7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma	Level 7	120

8	Variation from the University Regulations		
	N/A		

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Distance Learning (Sept- Full-time)	N/A	12 months	PT1828
	Distance Learning (Jan- Full-time)	N/A	18 months	PT1829
	Distance Learning (Sept- Part-time)	N/A	24 months	PT1830
	Distance Learning (Jan- Part-time)	N/A	36 months	PT1831

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	Course Aims
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive understanding of English Linguistics and acquire specialised knowledge in your chosen area through engagement with world-leading research. • Foster critical thinking and reflection on research to support your growth as a life-long learner in the field of Linguistics. • Gain insight into cutting-edge research conducted by active researchers and world-leading authorities in Linguistics. • Become an active researcher able to apply theoretical knowledge to the analysis of real-world linguistic data. • Acquire interdisciplinary skills by examining approaches from psychology, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and neuroscience to study language. • Enhance your skills in the analysis of language by drawing on a wide range of cognitive, social and interactional skills and competencies. • Enhance employability by developing both specialised and generic intellectual skills valued by employers. • Master the design and execution of large-scale research projects. • Engage with diverse cultural perspectives and explore the global significance of English as a language to prepare for opportunities such as teaching English as a foreign language.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and understanding
1	Demonstrate significant knowledge of the fundamental analytical concepts and methods of inquiry associated with a range of sub-fields of linguistics worldwide.
2	Implement a systematic approach to the identification, description and analysis of language phenomena.
3	Critically evaluate alternative theories, drawing on an understanding of the nature of linguistic theory and of what constitutes an explanation within the scope of linguistics.
4	Apply analytical concepts to appropriate linguistic data sets.
5	Utilise linguistics knowledge and skills to fulfil relevant requirements for organising and carrying out fieldwork, and for addressing ethical and legal issues involved in the collection and use of data from speakers of a language.
	Skills and other attributes
6	Apply techniques for collecting and transcribing data specific to the various sub-disciplines of linguistics, e.g. the use of language corpora, elicitation tasks, questionnaires, interviews and other types of fieldwork.
7	Organise linguistic data and analysis using the appropriate formalisms and conventions specific to each sub-discipline of linguistics.
8	Apply linguistic analysis to 'real world' scenarios nationally and internationally.
9	Design and carry out a piece of independent research on an appropriate topic, making a novel contribution to a sub-field of linguistics.

10	Construct the research projects in writing in a fluent, concise and precise manner, formulating the arguments using appropriate register and style.
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13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7 / the PG Cert, students will be able to:</i>
	Examine written and spoken texts for linguistic characteristics, taking a systematic approach to the identification, description and analysis of language phenomena.
	Reflect critically on alternative theories and potential analytical problems encountered in individual contexts.
	Engage critically with a substantial body of knowledge at the forefront of a sub-field of linguistics of your own choice, making an original contribution to debates in this area.
	<i>Upon completion of further 60 credits at Level 7 / the PG Dip, students will be able to:</i>
	Critique different, often conflicting, approaches to linguistic theories and analytical frameworks, selecting the most appropriate approaches depending on research aims and objectives.
	Design and deliver a small-scale research project based on the appropriate data identification or data collection practices, presenting and articulating the relevance of the data, methods, and findings in relation to the existing academic literature and scholarly standards.
	Successfully communicate your research findings, giving appropriate consideration to academic and ethical requirements.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>Our course MA in English Linguistics is a distance-learning course where all students follow their individual learning plans, so there is no on-campus or online attendance required. Each module has a dedicated Moodle page and, while the exact content varies according to module topic, you can expect to find resources such as a discussion forum, glossary, reading list, videos, and interactive quizzes, as well as the main teaching materials for the module. The teaching materials are designed as a form of written tutorial input, with opportunities for you to evaluate and strengthen your understanding of the content, and you will see that they differ in format from most conventional academic textbooks. They refer you to readings for the module, and typically guide you in how to study them, using study questions. As well as explaining the key terms and concepts in the topic domain, the module resources allow you to learn interactively by providing self-check questions, with answers. You will also be provided with expanded exercise material, allowing you to consolidate the knowledge you have gained at each stage. Monitoring your own progress in this way through formative learning is something you will do on a regular basis. You will know you are ready to advance beyond a particular unit when you can handle the self-check questions provided for that unit. You then progress to the exercise materials for the module which you will send to your module tutor for feedback. When this is satisfactory, you will be ready to undertake assessment of the module. In this way, your learning is paced so that you stand the best chance of successful completion of the module.</p> <p>Our approach is flexible and we recognise the range of pressures that students face as they make their way through postgraduate education. We use a wide range of modes of online learning delivery which might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff-produced handbooks, guides, study support information; • Directed study tasks involving academic or practical activities; • Set readings that allow students to explore subject matter further and aid their preparation for seminar discussions;

- Interactive activities on Moodle;
- Independent projects, research, analysis and reviewing critical work.

We will support you at every stage and take an inclusive approach to assessment, offering supportive feedback on first drafts of your assignments and coursework. You are always welcome to book online tutorials with tutors or send in your enquiries about the content of modules by email. You are encouraged to regard yourself as actively involved in assessment design and will be given a wide range of topics to choose from for your final assessments, allowing you to focus on the subject areas which align with your career aspirations and personal preferences, equipping you with the skills you wish to hone for your future plans. We recognise that as students you come from a range of backgrounds and experiences and in turn, our curriculum is designed to recognise the diversity of texts, practices and debates about key issues in applied linguistics. We ensure your voice is heard within the course offered and encourage you to identify topics and debates that you feel we should be discussing and debating, so that you feel enabled as a co-creator in your curriculum.

Assessment on this course comes in a variety of forms, depending on the nature of the module. On the introductory Language Description, for example, you are asked to carry out a grammatical, morphological and phonological analysis of a text using the skills you have developed throughout the module. There are ample opportunities to test these skills through self-check exercises before you attempt the final assessment. In other modules, you will be asked to write reports and research papers as well as conventional essays. There is also the final dissertation, the writing of which will help you to develop important transferable skills as an independent researcher.

15	Course Requirements																						
15a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EGL7223</td> <td>Language Description</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7216</td> <td>Data, Theory and Method in Linguistics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7222</td> <td>Sociolinguistics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7211</td> <td>Second Language Acquisition</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7225</td> <td>Corpus Linguistics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7232</td> <td>Major Project</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	EGL7223	Language Description	40	EGL7216	Data, Theory and Method in Linguistics	20	EGL7222	Sociolinguistics	20	EGL7211	Second Language Acquisition	20	EGL7225	Corpus Linguistics	20	EGL7232	Major Project	60
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15b Structure Diagram
Level 7

The order of modules is as follows: Language Description; Data, Theory and Method; Sociolinguistics; Second Language Acquisition; Corpus Linguistics, Major Project.

Full-time diagram for September start:

Year 1, semester 1 Core EGL7223: Language Description (40 credits) EGL7216: Data, Theory and Method in Linguistics (20 credits)	Year 1, semester 2 Core EGL7222: Sociolinguistics (20 credits) EGL7211: Second Language Acquisition (20 credits) EGL7225: Corpus Linguistics (20 credits)
Year 1, semester 3 Core EGL7232: Major Project	

Part-time for two years, September start:

Year 1, semester 1 Core EGL7223: Language Description (40 credits)	Year 1, semester 2 Core EGL7216: Data, Theory and Method in Linguistics (20 credits) EGL7222: Sociolinguistics (20 credits)
Year 2, semester 1 Core EGL7211: Second Language Acquisition (20 credits) EGL7225: Corpus Linguistics (20 credits)	Year 2, semesters 2 and 3 Core EGL7232: Major Project (60 credits)

Full-time for January start (18 months):

	Year 1, semester 2 Core EGL7223: Language Description (40 credits) EGL7216: Data, Theory and Method in Linguistics (20 credits)
Year 2, semester 1	Year 2, semester 2

Core EGL7222: Sociolinguistics (20 credits) EGL7211: Second Language Acquisition (20 credits) EGL7225: Corpus Linguistics (20 credits)	Core EGL7232: Major Project
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Part-time for three years, January start:

	Year 1, semester 2 Core EGL7223: Language Description (40 credits)
Year 2, semester 1 Core EGL7216: Data, Theory and Method in Linguistics (20 credits)	Year 2, semester 2 Core EGL7222: Sociolinguistics (20 credits)
Year 3, semester 1 Core EGL7211: Second Language Acquisition (20 credits)	Year 3, semester 2 Core EGL7225: Corpus Linguistics (20 credits)
Year 3, semester 1 Core EGL7232: Major Project (60 credits)	

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7
Workload
XX% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	0
Directed Learning	1080
Private Study	720
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	