

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MA Language Teaching/Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) <i>Final award titles:</i> MA Language Teaching MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip Language Teaching PG Dip TESOL PG Cert Language Teaching PG Cert TESOL
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London, online
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMALNTIP_C (on-campus study) TMALNTMX_C (flexible study) TMALNTIP_C (online study)
HECoS Code	(100970) applied linguistics (100513) teaching English as a foreign language
Start date of programme	Autumn 2010
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	April 2025
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	8/04/2025

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Our entry requirement is usually a second-class honours degree (2:2) (or international equivalent) in a relevant subject. For applications not meeting this academic standard, professional training and/or language teaching experience will be considered.

If English is not your first language, you will need an English language qualification (IELTS 6.5 or equivalent with minimum 6.0 in sub-sets) completed within the last 2 years, unless you can provide evidence that you have completed a degree in an English-speaking university.

If you have been awarded the Cambridge Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults (DELTA) in the last 5 years, you may apply for credit for 1 option module. If you wish to apply for credit, then please indicate this in your application.

Course aims

The programme is designed for people with classroom experience of teaching second or foreign languages, or those with a strong academic background in a relevant subject and/or who have completed a teaching practicum and have an interest in the theory and practice of language teaching. The programme offers the opportunity to increase student knowledge of the theories that shape the decisions that teachers make in class and develop an understanding of classroom practice through personal reflection and discussion with other practitioners.

The MA programme aims to increase understanding of key concepts in language teaching through the academic literature; to develop a critical approach to methods and materials; to offer the opportunity to reflect on professional practice; to promote cross-cultural awareness at the same time as knowledge of different teaching contexts; and to provide a range of options to allow for different professional interests.

Students are given the opportunity to pursue separate exit awards of either MA Language Teaching or MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) which will reflect the content and work completed in their chosen option modules and the focus of their dissertation, i.e. students focusing on aspects of teaching English in their work will be awarded a MA TESOL, while those focusing on the teaching of languages other than English will be awarded a MA in LANGUAGE TEACHING. The flexible entry pathway also enables students who may not be able to commit to a fixed MA programme to gain knowledge in the fields of language teaching and TESOL before selecting the award they are aiming for. This supports the College mission of widening participation and offering flexible formats of study to support students in their career goals.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	LNLN019S7	Research Methods and Design	30	Core	T1
7	SSAC005S7	Language Teaching and Learning in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts	30	Core	T1
7		Option	30	Option	T2
7		Option	30	Option	T2
7	LNLN004D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T1, 2 & 3
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	SSAC005S7	Language Teaching and Learning in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts	30	Core	T1
7		Option	30	Option	T2
Year 2					
7	LNLN019S7	Research Methods and Design	30	Core	T1
7		Option	30	Option	T2
7	LNLN004D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T1, 2 & 3

All core modules shown above are delivered both online and in class using hyflex technology

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

Indicative list of Options

SSAC055S7 Language and Identity (*TBC*)

SSAC082S7 Linguistic Description for Language Teaching (*hyflex*)

SSAC046S7 Neurolinguistics (*TBC*)

SSAC047S7 Psycholinguistics (*hyflex*)

LNLN076S7 Introduction to Applied Linguistics (*hyflex*)

LNLN067S7 Sociolinguistics (*TBC*)

LNLN063S7 Language, Culture and Communication (*hyflex*)

Please note: students can take one 30-credit option module from other departments in the college, subject to approval from the programme director.

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Teaching takes several forms, including lectures, seminars, discussions, workshops and presentations.

Modules are delivered both online and in-class using hyflex technology.

How we will assess you

Assessments for the Core modules and Options are coursework based.

Students work towards the completion of a 12-15,000 word dissertation (60 credits).

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Develop substantial knowledge and understanding of the main theories, principles and models in the study of language teaching. (New modules, core and option)
- Develop substantial knowledge of the relationship between teaching, learning and language. (New modules, core and option)
- Demonstrate appreciation of the relationship between theory and practice and the ability to make connections between theories and practice (LNLN019S7, and all content modules)
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate theories (LNLN019S7, and all content modules)
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on one's own personal and professional experience (New modules, core and option)
- Apply an analytical and systematic approach to problem-solving (LNLN019S7, and all content modules)
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesise ideas and information (all modules, plus dissertation)
- Academic writing skills (all modules and dissertation)
- Research skills (all modules and dissertation)
- Develop self-confidence through appreciation of individual and cultural styles of learning and communication

Careers and further study

This programme is primarily intended for teachers of modern languages or of English as a Second or Other Language (TESOL), whether already practising or who have completed a teaching practicum and would like to become teachers.

You will find Linguistics graduates in a wide range of roles in the creative industries as well as in education, law, the civil service and business roles. Our graduates leave with valuable attributes such as:

- High-level oral and written communication skills in English and in one or more foreign modern languages
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing various types of information
- The ability to convey your ideas and build an argument

- The ability to analyse and process complex ideas
- Independent research skills as well as the ability to work as part of a team

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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