# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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| Name, title and level of final qualification(s) | **MA Applied Linguistics and Communication** (Level 7) |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s) | PG Dip, PG Cert, |
| 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, Flexible |
| Language of delivery and assessment | English |
| Mode of study, length of study and normal start month | Full-time (1 year)<br>Part-time (2 years)<br>October |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body | N/A |
| QAA subject benchmark group(s)<br>Higher Education Credit Framework for England | N/A |
| Birkbeck Course Code | TMALCMIP_C (on-campus study)<br>TMALCMON_C (online study)<br>TMACRMMX_C (flexible study) |
| HECoS Code | 100970 applied linguistics |
| Start date of programme | Prior to 1995 |
| Date of programme approval | Prior to 1995 |
| Date of last programme amendment approval | April 2025 |
| Valid for academic entry year | **2026-27** |
| 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 overseas equivalent) in a relevant subject and/or relevant professional training.

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. An interview may be required. You may also be asked to complete a short written task of no more than 500 words.

**Course aims**

The MA in Applied Linguistics and Communications is designed for people interested in (or working in) a wide variety of academic and professional fields that deal in a significant way with language. It provides an opportunity to explore both applied and theoretical aspects of linguistics and to undertake empirical and/or theoretical research into language and linguistic behaviour. This MA programme aims to enable you to develop an informed and critical awareness of issues of linguistic analysis and language use; to develop your awareness of the empirical relevance and applications of theoretical issues in linguistics, and, where appropriate, to actively explore these issues in the context of your own experience of language as a user, learner, teacher or researcher; and to provide an intellectually stimulating environment in which you can develop your individual intellectual interests.

**Course structure**

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credit | Comp Core/ Option | Likely teaching term(s) |
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| **Full-time – 1 year** | | | | | |
| 7 | LNLN019S7 | Research Methods and Design | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 7 | LNLN076S7 | Introduction to Applied Linguistics | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 7 | | Option | 30 | Option | T2 or 3 |
| 7 | | Option | 30 | Option | T2 or 3 |
| 7 | LNLN004D7 | Dissertation | 60 | Core | T1-3 |
| **Part-time – 1 year** | | | | | |
| **Year 1** | | | | | |
| 7 | LNLN076S7 | Introduction to Applied Linguistics | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 7 | | Option | 30 | Option | T2 |
| **Year Two** | | | | | |
| 7 | LNLN019S7 | Research Methods and Design | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 7 | | Option | 30 | Option | T2 |
| 7 | LNLN004D7 | Dissertation | 60 | Core | T1-3 |

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| 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 |

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

**Indicative list of options**

SSAC082S7 Linguistic Description for Language Teaching *(Hyflex)*
SSAC046S7 Neurolinguistics *(hyflex)*
SSAC047S7 Psycholinguistics *(TBC)*
SSAC005S7 Language Teaching and Learning in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts *(hyflex)*
LNLN067S7 Sociolinguistics *(hyflex)*
LNLN063S7 Language, Culture and Communication (*TBC)*

Please note: students can take one 30 credit option module from another department in a cognate/related area, with 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**

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

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)**

‘Learning outcomes’ indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

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

- A good appreciation of basic concepts, modes of analysis and theoretical approaches in linguistics
- An advanced knowledge of a range of empirical linguistic phenomena, coupled with relevant descriptive terminology
- A good appreciation of the nature of human language, its structural properties, and its functions

- A critical ability to construct and evaluate linguistic arguments in the context of analysis of data, and competing explanations
- Reasoning skills
- Critique and evaluation
- Appreciation of scientific method
- An ability to synthesise ideas and information
- A capacity for abstract modelling
- Appreciation of the role of theory, and the relation of data to theory

**Careers and further study**

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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