COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Communication & Applied Linguistics

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration

March 2018

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the Course Specification Guidance Notes for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	*Title of ALL named awards, including staged awards if applicable*
Final Award	*MA Communication and Applied Linguistics (MCAL)*
Exit Awards	*Diploma in Higher Education*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C2671F C2671P
Mode of study	*Full time and part time*
Mode of delivery	*CAMPUS*
Normal length of course	*1 year FT 2 years PT*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*from September 2019 intake onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Languages & Linguistics (SLAL)*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-languages-and-area-studies/*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/modern-languages-and-area-studies/ma-communication-and-applied-linguistics/*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*none*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Module Web Search for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The Course Specification Guidance Notes include advice on what to include in this section.

- *To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study.*
- *To provide an educational experience underpinned by research, scholarship and professional and ethical practice that inspires, engages and challenges students and promotes success in an inclusive and supportive environment.*
- *To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise careers and other study opportunities.*
- *To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.*
- *To provide students with the opportunities to develop key communication skills.*
- *To give students a detailed understanding of the cognitive processes underlying the comprehension and production of both spoken and written language.*
- *To enable students to obtain a detailed/advanced understanding of the nature of communication from the perspective of relevant disciplines such as linguistics, sociology and psychology and to be able to apply that theoretical and analytical understanding to the production of different text types.*
- *To enable students to acquire an advanced understanding of grammar, semantics, pragmatics and discourse analysis*
- *To provide students with the tools necessary for describing English from the point of view of grammar, semantics, pragmatics and discourse analysis*
- *To give students the opportunity to undertake an independent investigation in one or more of the following areas: sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, pragmatics, second language acquisition, intercultural communication, technical communication and digital communication.*

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. **Knowledge and understanding of:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Relevant analytical concepts in semiotics, linguistics, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics	*lectures, lecturer notes, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
A2	Advanced data collection techniques in research methods	*lectures, lecturer notes, group*	*Essays, projects portfolios,*

			discussion boards, blogs,	reports, presentations, dissertations
A3	The need for a systematic approach to linguistic phenomena and how theory helps to organise the understanding of practical, high-quality text production		lectures, lecturer notes, group discussion boards, blogs,	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations
A4	The reasons for, and the criteria for evaluating alternative analyses of a given set of data		lectures, lecturer notes, group discussion boards, blogs,	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations
A5	Central analytical concepts and methods of data-collection in Discourse, Semantics, Pragmatics, Sociolinguistics, Descriptive Linguistics		lectures, lecturer notes, group discussion boards, blogs,	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Assess the merits of contrasting theories and explanations, including those of other disciplines	lectures, lecturer notes, seminars group discussion boards, blogs,	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations
B2	Critically judge and evaluate evidence, in particular in relation to the use of language in specific modes, genres and contexts, in non-academic domains (textual analysis and design, relational aspects of language use, language in social, professional and other occupational contexts, translation and interpretation).	lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations
B3	Awareness of the relation between knowledge of language and critical evaluation and implementation of language in social life.	lectures, lecturer notes, seminars group discussion boards, blogs,	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations
B4	Recognise problems and develop problem-solving strategies.	lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs, online tutorials	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations
B5	Use a variety of methods, and assess the advantages and disadvantages of each method.	lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,	Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Employ fundamental techniques for collecting data in the various areas of applied linguistics, including the creating and exploitation of electronic bodies of data, such as language corpora, elicitation tasks, phonological transcription, questionnaires, and ethnography;	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
C2	Critically discuss the technical issues involved in the collection of reliable data; C.4 Use fundamental techniques for the analysis of data, including the use of corpus analytic techniques, statistical techniques, qualitative techniques, and textual analysis;	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
C3	Use the necessary computational tools and software packages wherever appropriate for the analysis of data;	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
C4	Present linguistic data and analyses by means of graphs, tables, matrices and other diagrams;	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
C 5	Consider the ethical issues involved in data collection and data storage.	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	*Collect, understand, analyse, interpret and critically evaluate complex information.*	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
D2	*Construct, analyse and critically evaluate theoretical and complex argumentation.*	*lectures lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*

D3	*Recognise problems and develop problem-solving strategies.*	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
D4	*Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing using appropriate register*	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*
D5	*Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management.*	*lectures, lecturer notes, seminars, group discussion boards, blogs,*	*Essays, projects portfolios, reports, presentations, dissertations*

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for *Linguistics*
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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