



MA

Applied Linguistics and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

12 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Learn in a department ranked in the QS top 100 for English language and literature. Explore contemporary approaches to language learning and insights into second language acquisition on an MA that opens the door to career opportunities around the world. Undertake the option of work/mentoring experience with real language learners and the option of adding the Cambridge CELTA. Develop a deeper understanding of language and discourse analysis on this master's for English, linguistics and education graduates with professional teaching experience.

Introduction

From current trends in language teaching to a comprehensive understanding of second language acquisition, this MA immerses you in all aspects of language learning and linguistics. The course is unique because it provides an opportunity to gain work or mentorship experience with real language learners and the option to undertake the internationally recognised Cambridge [CELTA](#) at a reduced cost.

We'll introduce you to the latest approaches to linguistics research and reveal how these methods are being applied in the classroom. Developing a deeper understanding of every facet of language, you'll analyse spoken and written discourse and gain experience of developing and refining language learning materials and assessment strategies.

The skills you develop will demonstrate your suitability for senior positions teaching English to speakers of other languages as well as a variety of educational administration roles, in the UK and overseas. Your command of language could open the door to a career in publishing or journalism too.

You'll learn from a friendly and supportive team of active researchers who have international teaching experience. Our students consistently praise the support they receive. Social visits to local places of interest will be arranged to help you to get to know your peers and the programme team.

Read about some of the [recent successes](#) of our students and teaching staff.

Read about the experience of [recent students](#).

Who is this course for?

The programme is designed for teachers, teacher trainers, materials writers, researchers and administrators. If you've got at least 12 months' professional teaching experience, we'll prepare you to teach English in educational settings across the globe.

If you have limited or no professional teaching experience, you'll not usually be eligible for this MA but can apply for our [MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages](#).

What you'll learn

- Recent developments in approaches to language learning and teaching
- Theories and research in second language acquisition
- How vocabulary shapes language structure and contemporary language learning
- How to analyse spoken and written discourse
- Critical thinking, academic writing and research design skills
- Key differences between spoken and written language
- The principles and practices of teaching English to young learners

- How to test and assess language skills in learners
- The role of digital technologies in language learning
- How to develop, evaluate and adapt language learning materials

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

You'll study three compulsory modules and one optional module in semester one.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
METHODS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING (ENGL641)	15
SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (ENGL661)	15
LEXIS AND VOCABULARY TEACHING (ENGL670)	15

Optional modules	Credits
TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS (ENGL664)	15
CORPUS LINGUISTICS FOR LANGUAGE RESEARCH AND TEACHING (ENGL685)	15
SPEAKING AND LISTENING (ENGL645)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

In semester two, you'll study two compulsory modules and two optional modules, one of which could be a work experience placement.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (ENGL640)	15
RESEARCH SKILLS (ENGL642)	15

Optional modules	Credits
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING (ENGL662)	15
LITERATURE AND SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHING (ENGL663)	15
PRINCIPLES OF COURSE AND MATERIALS DESIGN (ENGL672)	15
WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT (ENGL795)	15
LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY (ENGL697)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

The dissertation project is completed over the summer.

Modules

Compulsory modules

Credits

APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL DISSERTATION (ENGL682)

60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, tutorials and seminars. You will also complete extensive individual work under supervision. The modules will increasingly challenge you, as you progress through the course, to engage with current debates, think critically and study independently.

The teaching approach is interactive. To help model best practice in teaching English to speakers of other languages, the programme will maximise your participation in taught sessions through discovery learning and group activities.

How you're assessed

You will be assessed through a variety of essays and written assignments, including portfolios of coursework. You will also produce a research proposal and complete a substantial research project.

Most modules also include unassessed coursework tasks. These range from the analysis of language and the evaluation or production of teaching materials to the preparation and delivery of a micro-teaching activity.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency

- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The programme provides a platform to develop your career in teaching, educational administration and other areas. You'll be well placed to pursue new opportunities both in the UK and internationally.

The key transferable skills you'll develop, especially in spoken and written communication, are highly sought after in publishing, journalism and marketing, for example. Clarity of expression, independent study and effective time management will also prepare you for further academic study and research.

Our alumni have gone on to teach English in elementary and secondary schools, as well as tertiary education settings, around the globe.

You'll graduate well placed to secure a senior teaching post in state or private education in the UK and overseas. A Masters degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages is a prerequisite for securing a long-term teaching post in many countries worldwide.

This MA is also a key qualification if you want to transition from classroom teaching to teacher training, higher education, or roles shaping educational policy and practice.

Potential career paths include:

- Teaching
- Teacher training
- Lecturing
- Research
- Leadership
- Educational administration
- School inspections
- Consultancy
- Curriculum design
- Publishing
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Sales
- Human resources.

A significant number of MA graduates in the Department of English continue their studies to PhD level.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in English, Linguistics or Education, as well as at least 12 months of professional teaching experience.

Other degree subjects may be considered on an individual basis.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course

length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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Generated: 19 Feb 2026, 17:18

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