MA

English Language

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The MA English Language offers you the opportunity to study in depth the range of topics, themes and frameworks that underpin the contemporary discipline of English Language. In addition to coverage through taught modules of the broader field, you will undertake your own research project, within your chosen specialist topic, through the Dissertation component.

Introduction

The programme offers a distinctive set of modules in English Language, all of which have a strongly 'applied' dimension in that they focus on how language is used in a range of real contexts of use. It develops methods and techniques for undertaking research into English language and students can apply these skills to investigate subjects and topics of their choice. The programme includes modules which develop specific skills in language analysis, such as functional linguistics and corpus linguistics. By contrast, other modules focus on major themes in English language study, including the history and development of linguistics as a discipline. The programme also includes a module which examines the relationship between language and identity and which investigates the representation of different voices and experiences through language. It is hoped that some students will consider progression from this new Masters course into PhD level work.

A placement module will be offered in the second semester through an expanding range of partners.

The MA is available both full-time (one year) and part-time (two years) to enable you to study at your own pace.

Course content

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

Semester one

Please note: programme and module details are illustrative and subject to change.

You will take five compulsory modules, plus a mandatory dissertation. Your remaining credits will be made up of three optional modules, which may include an optional work experience placement.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ANALYSING LANGUAGE: TRADITION AND TECHNIQUE (ENGL698)	15
RESEARCH SKILLS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGL699)	15

Optional modules	Credits
FUNDAMENTALS OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION B (COMM517)	15
RESEARCH METHODS FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION (COMM523)	15
SOCIAL MEDIA RESEARCH METHODS (COMM755)	15
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION IN PRACTICE: PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES (COMM522)	15

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

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CORPUS LINGUISTICS FOR LANGUAGE RESEARCH AND TEACHING (ENGL685)	15
FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS (ENGL696)	15
LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY (ENGL697)	15

Optional modules	Credits
INFLUENCING STRATEGIES IN DIGITAL MEDIA (COMM520)	15
WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT (ENGL795)	15

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

Final project

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (ENGL702)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching is delivered through a combination of seminars and tutorials held on campus. Depending on which module options you choose, there may be lectures and separate seminar sessions scheduled, but all classes will take place on campus in person. Class sizes for master's programmes in the Department of English tend to be small, and a typical class in English will include between eight to ten students.

How you're assessed

You will be assessed by a combination of formative and summative coursework. This will take a number of different forms, including essays, essay plans, research proposals, and a dissertation. In addition, students will be assessed by presentations in certain modules. Other assessment formats may apply also depending on the options modules taken.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

Careers and employability

There is an emphasis throughout the programme on the development of written and oral presentation skills as well working independently and in collaboration – all transferable skills that employers value.

Through the work placement module, you will have the opportunity to gain industry knowledge and build a network of contacts.

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
Part-time place, per year - £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £28,000
Part-time place, per year - £14,000

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 £12,858 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.

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 an appropriate subject such as English Language or Linguistics.

If applicants do not hold an undergraduate degree in an appropriate subject, then demonstrable experience and engagement with the academic study of English Language may be taken into consideration. Such relevant experience and engagement may include a certificate or diploma level qualification in, for example, Applied Linguistics or TESOL. An interview may form part of the selection process in these circumstances.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the **University of Liverpool International College**, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MA, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

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

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
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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