

MA Applied Linguistics

This programme is intended for anyone interested in the application of language research to language pedagogy, and for teachers of English who wish to upgrade their professional standing. All students on this programme are introduced to the 400 million-word Bank of English corpus, an invaluable collection of authentic language data against which theory, intuition and pedagogic materials can be measured.

We also offer a distance learning programme over 2.5 years. For more information see [Applied Linguistics MA \(Distance Learning\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/distance/english/applied-linguistics.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/distance/english/applied-linguistics.aspx>).

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Continuing professional development, taught

Study Options: Full time

Duration: 1 year full-time

Start date: September

Contact

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[School of English, Drama and American & Canadian Studies \(/schools/edacs/index.aspx\)](/schools/edacs/index.aspx)

[Department of English Literature \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/index.aspx\)](/schools/edacs/departments/english/index.aspx)

Details

You will study four core modules [full descriptions available below]:

- Describing Language
- Social and Psychological Aspects of Language
- Discourse, Culture and Communication
- Research Methods in Applied Linguistics

You will also choose two optional modules from a wide range and complete a 15,000-word dissertation.

In addition, there are two non-assessed components in the programme:

- All students will take a short course – Introduction to the Bank of English – which introduces you to the 400 million-word Cobuild Bank of English corpus, an invaluable collection of authentic language data against which theory, intuition and pedagogic materials can be measured
- You may also take a course in Academic Writing. Those whose first language is not English are particularly encouraged to follow this course.

You will do a total of six assessed pieces of coursework over the year. For assessment purposes, one of the modules you take during the spring term will be 'linked' with the Research Methods module – that is, you will produce a piece of work in the field covered by that module, but with a particular focus on research methods.

Modules

You will study four core modules:

Describing Language

This module provides a grounding in the analysis of the lexis and grammar of English. You will be introduced to essential concepts and terminology in the field, and gain practice in analysing naturally-occurring language using the models (NB Systemic-Functional Grammar) discussed. There is some emphasis on the application of such analysis to the study of language in social context.

Social and Psychological Aspects of Language

This module provides an introduction to the main sociological and psychological aspects of language use and language development. One half of the course will introduce and discuss concepts and issues in the field of Sociolinguistics; the other will explore issues in Psycholinguistics. Sociolinguistic topics will include: 'standard' language and dialectal variety, linguistic variation by social context / purpose, language and social class, language policy and planning. Psycholinguistic topics will include: Universal Grammar, the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, 1st and 2nd language acquisition, language development.

Discourse, Culture and Communication

This module explores the interaction between discourse and 'culture'. Various definitions of 'culture' are outlined in relation to other theoretical concepts (e.g. ideology), and you will be introduced to models of analysis for spoken and written discourse. These models are applied to sample texts, with a view to examining issues and problems of communication within and across cultural boundaries. You will be encouraged to explore the relevance of approaches to discourse and 'culture' to professional contexts.

Research Methods in Applied Linguistics

This module includes a course in methods and approaches to research in Applied Linguistics.

You will also choose two optional modules from a range which may include the following:

In the autumn term -

- [Introduction to Corpus Linguistics \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#discourseculturecommunication\)](#)
- [Language and Literature: Key Topics in Stylistics \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#introductiontranslation\)](#)
- [Second Language Learning and Teaching \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#researchmethodscorpuslinguistics\)](#)
- [Syllabus and Materials Design \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#socialpsychologicalaspectslanguage\)](#)

In the spring term -

- [Business English \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#advancescorpuslinguistics\)](#)
- [Cognitive Approaches to Discourse Analysis \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#CognitiveApproachesDiscourseAnalysis\)](#)
- [Cognitive Linguistics and Language Learning \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#businessenglish\)](#)
- [Computer Assisted Language Learning \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#cognitivelinguisticslanguagelearning\)](#)
- [Corpus Linguistics \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#contemporarytranslationtheory\)](#)
- [Discourse for Teachers \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#corpuslinguistics\)](#)
- [English as a Global Language \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#discourseteachers\)](#)
- [Issues and Approaches in English for Academic Purposes \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#englishgloballanguage\)](#)
- [Intercultural Communication \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#issuesapproachesenglishacademicpurposes\)](#)
- [Language and New Media \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#interculturalcommunication\)](#)
- [Language and Politics \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#languagenewmedia\)](#)
- [Language, Style and Identity \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#LanguageStyleIdentity\)](#)
- [Language Teaching Observation and Practice \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#languagepolitics\)](#)
- [Language Testing \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#languageteachingobservationpractice\)](#)
- [Narrative Analysis in Film and Fiction \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#languagetesting\)](#)
- [Teacher Training \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/english/elal-modules.aspx#specialisedtranslation\)](#)

Please note that availability of optional modules may vary from year to year.

Fees and funding

We charge an annual tuition fee. Fees for 2015/16 are as follows:

- Home/EU: £6,840 full-time
- Overseas: £14,140 full-time

Tuition fees can either be paid in full or by instalments.

Eligibility for Home/EU or Overseas fees can be verified with Admissions. Learn more about [fees for international students \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/finance/fees.aspx\)](#).

Learn more about [postgraduate tuition fees and funding \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx\)](#).

Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships to cover fees and/or maintenance costs may be available. To discover whether you are eligible for any award across the University, and to start your funding application, please visit the University's [Postgraduate Funding Database \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx\)](#).

International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

Entry requirements

Learn more about [entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx\)](#)

International students

Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications; our [country pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx\)](#) show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an [English language qualification \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx\)](#) to the right level; for this course we ask for IELTS 6.5 in all bands.
- by taking and successfully completing one of our [English courses for international students \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx\)](#)

How to apply

Before you make your application

You may wish to **register your interest with us** (<https://bham.hobsons.co.uk/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=postgraduate>) to receive regular news and updates on postgraduate life within this Department and the wider University.

Making your application

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the **How to apply pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx>)

Apply now (<https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/CAL051.htm>)

Related news and events

December graduations ([/schools/edacs/departments/english/news/2011/cels2011/december-graduations.aspx](https://schools/edacs/departments/english/news/2011/cels2011/december-graduations.aspx))

Researchers to unlock distinctive West Midlands accent ([/research/impact/our/news/items/vernon-manuscript.aspx](https://research/impact/our/news/items/vernon-manuscript.aspx))

Learning and teaching

As an English language student, you will be able to benefit from having free access to the 450 million word Bank of English corpus, and to the hardware, software and data resources held at the **Centre for Corpus Research** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/corpus/index.aspx>).

You will also become part of, and contribute to, the vibrant international community of the College of Arts and Law Graduate School, which offers dedicated research resources and a supportive working environment. Our team of academic and operational staff are on hand to offer support and advice to all postgraduate students within the College.

Support with academic writing

As a postgraduate student in the College of Arts and Law, you have access to the **Academic Writing Advisory Service (AWAS)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/opportunities/awas/index.aspx>) which aims to help your transition from undergraduate to taught Masters level, or back into academia after time away. The service offers guidance on writing assignments and dissertations for your MA/MSc programme with individual support from an academic writing advisor via tutorials, email and the provision of online materials.

International students can access support through the **English for International Students Unit (EISU)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/eisu/inseasonal/index.aspx>).

Related staff

Dr Crayton Walker ([/staff/profiles/elal/walker-crayton.aspx](https://staff/profiles/elal/walker-crayton.aspx))

Employability

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 8th in the UK and 60th in the world for post-qualification employability in the latest global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune.

Your degree will provide excellent preparation for employment and this will be further enhanced by the employability skills training offered through the College of Arts and Law Graduate School.

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relation to verbal and written communication. They also develop crucial skills in organisation, time management, analysis and interpretation of information.

Over the past five years, over 92% of English Language and Applied Linguistics postgraduates were in work and/or further study six months after graduation. Some of our graduates enter roles for which their programme has prepared them, such as translation, interpreting or teaching; others use their transferable skills in a wide range of occupations including journalism, marketing, publishing and media.

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