

## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	MA Linguistics in Society
Name of interim award(s):	N/A
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 calendar year (full-time); 2 calendar years (part-time)
Queen Mary programme code(s):	Q1T3 / Q1T4
QAA Benchmark Group:	N/A
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

### Programme outline

The MA Linguistics in Society is designed to offer postgraduate level training in the core subject areas of applied linguistics.

This programme will equip you with technical and advanced expertise in how human language works and how it is used in specific real-life settings, with implications for interpersonal relationships, business interactions and effective communication in various mediated and unmediated contexts. Through a range of modules, you will explore major developments in sociolinguistic thought around language and its embedding in society, the role of language in forming and expressing beliefs and ideologies, and the effects of social diversity in the communicative patterns of specific groups and communities. You will be introduced to diverse applications of linguistics beyond professions that are explicitly linked to language, including in speech and language therapy for children and adults with communication disorders, criminal investigations and courtrooms, the entertainment industry, IT, education and teaching, healthcare and professional workplaces, providing you with practical and theoretical knowledge as well as sought after transferable skills.

The department is a leading hub for research on sociolinguistics and its applications in many of the sectors listed above. You will be taught by internationally recognised specialists in these fields as well as being a part of the vibrant research culture of the department. The programme's location in London offers a uniquely diverse set of field sites for research, and the programme is designed to be flexible and to permit specialisation in a range of subareas of applied linguistics.

In addition to your dissertation, you will have the option to work as a Research Assistant on one of the department's ongoing research projects and/or to take part in a placement with one of our private or public sector partners.

Upon acceptance, you will work with an academic advisor to tailor a programme of study that corresponds to your experience and interests. We strongly encourage cross-disciplinary interaction and welcome students with diverse interests.

### Aims of the programme

The aim of this programme is to produce well-trained applied linguists capable of going on to begin a PhD in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics and/or to take employment in a field in which linguistics plays an important part. This includes the real world settings of healthcare and clinical contexts, speech and language therapy, law and courtrooms, journalism and the media, and social media and digital communication.

The programme covers a range of practical and knowledge transfer components which will support students in building collaborations and networking with industry partners and recognize the applicability of training in applied linguistics to their career prospects outside the higher education sector. Students will, for example, have the opportunity to engage in a semester-long placement with a partner organization. During this time, students will work closely with the partner organization to bring their linguistic knowledge to bear on relevant issues and in so doing demonstrate the impact that Linguistics as a field can have on society.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in terms of academic and discipline content and transferable skills. The programme outcomes are referenced to the relevant QAA benchmark descriptor(s) and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2003 and Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

#### Academic Content:

A 1	Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various aspects of applied linguistics.
A 2	Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the wide range of applications for applied linguistic research and its potential for social and economic impact.
A 3	Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to demonstrate sensitivity to the intersections and overlaps between research in linguistics and research in other disciplines throughout the humanities and the social and biological sciences

#### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to synthesise various aspects of theoretical knowledge to meet practical needs in the real world contexts where language plays an important part.
B 2	Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to develop theories of mental and/or social structures through the synthesis and integration of diverse bodies of empirical evidence.
B 3	Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to produce critical evaluations of current research in Applied Linguistics.

Attributes:	
C 1	Students who successfully complete the programme will acquire both the independent and team learning skills necessary to continue their professional development in a changing world.
C 2	Students who successfully complete the programme will acquire an ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility, including an engagement in self-reflective practice and an ability to discuss strategies and tactics.
C 3	Students will be given opportunities to demonstrate decision-making ability in the complex and unpredictable situations that arise in the world of employment, and be able to demonstrate creativity in tackling and solving problems.
C 4	Students who successfully complete the programme will acquire communicative skills through discussion and oral presentations of research and/or reflection, and acquire skills to present and defend their opinions through logical argument.
C 5	Students who successfully complete the programme will have the skills to work effectively in a diverse range of settings, including working with diverse communities.

### How will you learn?

A range of teaching and learning techniques will be used, tailored to the learning outcomes of the different modules. These can include: lectures; seminars; seminar discussions; teaching observation; workshops; directed readings; practical tasks; material development; library-based research; presentations; group work; reflection through reflective learning logs, and knowledge transfer activities. Individual module forms list further details of teaching and learning procedures.

### How will you be assessed?

The programme offers a rich combination of summative and formative assessment. These will include: essays; formative assessment; learning log; presentations; extended written analyses of data; and practical tasks such as materials development and multimodal text production. Activities such as the Research Practicum will allow students to gain hands-on training in conducting advanced linguistics research and receive regular formative feedback from their research mentor. This experience will prove invaluable to them as they undertake the (summatively assessed) task of writing a dissertation. Individual module proposal forms list further details of assessment practices.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

#### FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Students will take 180 credits in total. These will comprise 60 credits of compulsory modules, 60 credits of elective modules and a 60 credit core dissertation module.

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Students will take the following compulsory modules in Semester I and II:

EAL7207 Description of Language (Sem 1) [15 credits]  
LIN7002 Sociolinguistic Theory (Sem 1) [15 credits]  
EAL7213 Research Methods in Language Teaching [15 credits] (Sem 1) OR LIN7023 Research Methods in Sociolinguistics (Sem 2) [15 credits]  
LIN7005 Dissertation Proseminar (Sem 2) [15 credits]

Students will choose 60 credits of elective modules in Semester I and II from the following indicative list (not all electives can be offered in each year):

LIN7060 Language and Health Communication [15 credits]  
LIN7059 Beyond Language: Multimodality in Theory and Practice [15 credits]  
LIN7053 Applying Linguistics in the Real World [15 credits]  
LIN7046 Meaning in the Real World [15 credits]  
LIN7010 Sociophonetics [15 credits]  
LIN7020 Ethnography of Communication - Foundations and Fieldwork [15 credits]  
LIN7205 Introduction to Phonetics [15 credits]  
LIN7012 Language Policy and Planning [15 credits]  
LIN7211 Directed Study in Linguistics [15 credits]  
LIN7212 Directed Study in Linguistics [15 credits]  
LIN7007 From Morpheme to Meaning [15 credits]  
LIN7039 Introduction to Experimental Linguistics [15 credits]  
LIN7029 Intensional Semantics [15 credits]  
LIN7016 Understudied Languages and Linguistic Theory [15 credits]  
LIN7047 Puzzles in Semantics [15 credits]  
LIN7204 Introduction to Phonology [15 credits]  
LIN7027 Trends in Linguistic Research [15 credits]  
LIN7014 Research Practicum [15 credits]  
LIN7209 Syntax [15 credits]  
LIN7210 Formal Semantics [15 credits]  
EAL7200 Approaches and methods in English Language Teaching [30 credits]  
EAL7202 Second language acquisition [30 credits]  
EAL7211 Curriculum Design and Materials Evaluation for English Language Teaching [15 credits]  
EAL7210 Methods of Text and Corpus Analysis [15 credits]  
EAL7212 Multimedia Materials Development for English Language Teaching [15 credits]  
EAL7209 Teaching English in Professional and Academic Settings [15 credits]

Students will also be able to select up to 30 credits of level 6 LIN-coded modules as option modules.

Students will take the 60 credit core dissertation module LIN7006 Dissertation in Linguistics in Semester 3.

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**PART-TIME STUDENTS**

Students will take 180 credits in total. These will comprise 60 credits of compulsory modules, 60 credits of elective modules and a 60 credit core dissertation module.

Year 1:

EAL7207 Description of Language (Sem 1) [15 credits]  
LIN7002 Sociolinguistic Theory (Sem 1) [15 credits]

Year 2:

EAL7213 Research Methods in Language Teaching (Sem 1) [15 credits] OR LIN7023 Research Methods in Sociolinguistics (Sem 2)  
LIN7005 Dissertation Proseminar (Sem 2) [15 credits]

Students will choose 30 credits of elective modules in both Year 1 and Year 2 from the following indicative list (not all electives

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can be offered in each year):

LIN7060 Language and Health Communication [15 credits]  
LIN7059 Beyond Language: Multimodality in Theory and Practice [15 credits]  
LIN7053 Applying Linguistics in the Real World [15 credits]  
LIN7046 Meaning in the Real World [15 credits]  
LIN7010 Sociophonetics [15 credits]  
LIN7020 Ethnography of Communication - Foundations and Fieldwork [15 credits]  
LIN7205 Introduction to Phonetics [15 credits]  
LIN7012 Language Policy and Planning [15 credits]  
LIN7211 Directed Study in Linguistics [15 credits]  
LIN7212 Directed Study in Linguistics [15 credits]  
LIN7007 From Morpheme to Meaning [15 credits]  
LIN7039 Introduction to Experimental Linguistics [15 credits]  
LIN7029 Intensional Semantics [15 credits]  
LIN7016 Understudied Languages and Linguistic Theory [15 credits]  
LIN7047 Puzzles in Semantics [15 credits]  
LIN7204 Introduction to Phonology [15 credits]  
LIN7027 Trends in Linguistic Research [15 credits]  
LIN7014 Research Practicum [15 credits]  
LIN7209 Syntax [15 credits]  
LIN7210 Formal Semantics [15 credits]  
EAL7200 Approaches and methods in English Language Teaching [30 credits]  
EAL7202 Second language acquisition [30 credits]  
EAL7211 Curriculum Design and Materials Evaluation for English Language Teaching [15 credits]  
EAL7210 Methods of Text and Corpus Analysis [15 credits]  
EAL7212 Multimedia Materials Development for English Language Teaching [15 credits]  
EAL7209 Teaching English in Professional and Academic Settings [15 credits]

Students will also be able to select up to 30 credits of level 6 LIN-coded modules as option modules.

Students will take the 60 credit core dissertation module LIN7006 Dissertation in Linguistics in Semester 3 of their second year.

**Academic Year of Study**

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester

**What are the entry requirements?**

A 2:1 or higher in linguistics or a related relevant field, e.g. sociology, cultural or media studies, language teaching.

English language entry requirements for international students:

IELTS - Overall 7.0  
Reading 6.5  
Writing 7.0  
Speaking 6.5

Listening 6.5

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

School of Languages, Linguistics and Film operates an Education Committee, which advises the School's Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QMUL policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

The School operates an Annual Programme Review of its taught provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

The College offers a wide range of support for students (the Dean and Deputy Dean for Students; the Student Finance and Bursary Officer; Queen Mary Advice and Counselling Service; Occupational Health Service; Student Health Service; Careers Service; Library Services; Disability and Dyslexia Service; Students' Union; Westfield Nursery; Chaplaincy, etc.).

#### Academic Advisors

In addition to College support MA students are supported by their individual advisors. The policy of the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film is to provide maximum support and guidance to all students of the School throughout their course of study at Queen Mary. Each student's academic progress and personal welfare is monitored by an adviser, with whom regular meetings are scheduled.

Advisers meet each Advisee at regular intervals and are responsible for the overall profile of the student's programme of study. This is an academic role, including support with module choice and registration, advice on study skills and assessment. The Adviser has also an important pastoral one, covering interest in their Advisees' general welfare and signposting to the Senior Tutor, Advice and Counselling Service, Disability and Dyslexia or other College professional service departments,

#### Support for learning and personal development

All teaching staff hold regular office hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress.

The School of Languages, Linguistics and Film runs a Writing Support Centre which offers weekly workshops to any students who would like to develop their academic writing further. The College offers a range of services to support students' learning and help them develop academically and professionally. These include: Academic Study Workshops, Academic English and Study Skills Support and One-to-One Tutorials working with you on your written assignments.

#### Programme induction

All students beginning study on the programme participate in an introductory meeting to the programme. This also includes opportunities for social interaction, and scheduled meetings with personal advisers.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Every attempt will be made to factor in the needs of all students on the MA Linguistics in Society, in accordance with the QMUL Policies and Guidelines Relating to Supporting Disabled Students. This includes consideration for students with disabilities and those who are neurodiverse, for example, visually impaired students, deaf and hearing impaired students, students with mental health issues, autistic students, students with ADHD and students with Specific Learning Differences. The availability of the part-time route also supports students with caring or parental responsibilities.

Particular consideration will be given to selecting reading texts that are available both in the electronic form and as a hard copy in the library. Where possible, all reading lists for the modules will be made available as Reading Lists Online.

Where technology permits, lectures will be Q-reviewed, closed captioned, and uploaded to QMplus after the lecture for the students to re-watch. Subject to specific pedagogical considerations, all other materials, such as handouts and lectures slides, will be made available to students before the lecture. Where practicable, lectures will be 'flipped', so that timetabled sessions will be used for interactive work with students with more traditional content posted online.

All QMplus content is to be checked for accessibility standards in close collaboration with the E-Learning Unit.

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The study of applied linguistics at this level develops a unique set of transferable skills and knowledge, including:

- Literacy skills
- Numeracy skills
- Sophisticated data collection and analysis techniques
- Logical and critical thinking
- Communication, presentation and IT skills.

Careers with MA in Linguistics in Society

Your skills and knowledge will be valuable in any field where a sensitivity to language and the ability to use evidence are important, in particular:

- Directly related fields such as teaching, translating, lexicography and speech therapy
- Areas such as social research, the media, PR, publishing, marketing, branding (e.g., in helping to develop new brand names), cultural institutions, therapy and counselling, communication, and IT (e.g., in the development of voice recognition or predictive texting software).
- You will also be ideally placed to pursue further research.

Links with industry

A number of our academics take on consultancy work with industry, for example:

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- Developing and researching new global brand names
- Working as pronunciation specialists for news organisations, such as the BBC
- Working with companies (e.g., Avon) on language-related campaigns and business image.
- Applied linguists often collaborate in cross-disciplinary teams and industries involving medicine, law and business management.

Staff draw on this industry experience to inform and enrich their teaching, bringing theoretical subjects to life. These links can also lead to opportunities to work with external organisations as part of the Research Practicum option.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Andrew Ratajczak

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Kathryn Richardson, Head of School

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

January 2024

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**