COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA TESOL WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Course Title	MA TESOL WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
Final Award	MA
Exit Awards	PGCert, PGDip
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P3685PYC
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	2 years sandwich with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2026 onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Education, Languages and Linguistics
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*SELL*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/ma-tesol-with-professional-experience*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*None*
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	*https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*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 Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- to provide a challenging and stimulating study environment
- to provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study
- to equip students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning
- to provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career opportunities
- to equip students with flexible teaching skills, allowing them to work in a variety of contexts, including international contexts
- to provide students with knowledge regarding how languages work and are learned
- to provide students with appropriate research skills, allowing them to undertake small scale studies regarding language and/or language learning and teaching following good ethical practice
- to provide students with an opportunity to complete a work placement which is related to their course and chosen career/professional field

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.

Office for Students Conditions of Registration

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	Understand the need for a systematic approach to language teaching and how theory and methodology help to organise understanding.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/dissertation/ commentary
A2	Identify recent developments and approaches to teaching English to speakers of other languages	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/dissertation/ commentary
A3	Recognise the nature of the process of professional development in language teaching.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/research project/dissertation/design project/ commentary
A4	Understand and be able to communicate competently the relevance of theories from and research in the disciplines of applied linguistics, education, educational psychology, psychology and sociology.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/dissertation/ commentary
A5	Demonstrate understanding of employability skills required in an environment related to their chosen career.	placement	portfolio, report

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	Critically assess the merits of contrasting theories and explanations, including those originating from other disciplines.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/design project/research project/dissertation/linguistic commentary
B2	Demonstrate the ability to think and evaluate independently.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/design project/ dissertation/linguistic commentary
B3	Appreciate a variety of research methods, and assess the advantages and disadvantages of each method.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/dissertation/linguistic commentary
B4	Critically reflect on experience.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/design project/ dissertation/linguistic commentary
B5	Demonstrate application of professional skills within appropriate/relevant context, and reflect on effective communication and people skills.	Placement	Portfolio and report

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	Develop the organisational, creative, evaluative and analytical skills required for research and professional autonomy in the language classroom	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/corpus driven commentary/research project/dissertation/linguistic commentary
C2	Consider the ethical issues involved in data collection and data storage.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	research project/dissertation
C3	Design, develop and deliver a language curriculum.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/design project/research project/dissertation
C4	Manage personal professional development in language pedagogy.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/design project/research project/dissertation
C5	Develop working relationships of a professional nature within related/appropriate professional area.	Placement	Portfolio and report

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.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/design project/ dissertation/linguistic commentary
D2	Recognise problems and develop problem-solving strategies.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/research project/design project/ dissertation/linguistic commentary
D3	Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/design project/ dissertation/linguistic commentary
D4	Manage their own learning self-critically, and think and evaluate independently.	seminars, group work, guided study, self-directed study, reflection	reflective essay/critical literature review/research project/design project/ dissertation/linguistic commentary
D5	Evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses, and develop their own criteria and judgement relating to their own practice, future learning and future employability goals.	Placement	Portfolio and report

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course. Approved course exemptions can be found here.

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:

- University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- 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 **English / Linguistics / Languages, Cultures and Societies (TESOL has no dedicated subject benchmark statement, but relevant standards and expectations are referenced in the above subject benchmark statements)**
- 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
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

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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