COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Applied Linguistics (DL)

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	*MA Applied Linguistics (DL)*
Final Award	*MA*
Exit Awards	*PGCert, PGDip*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*P3703FTD/PTD* *P3704PTD*
Mode of study	*Full time, Part time*
Mode of delivery	*DL*
Normal length of course	*1 year full-time* *2 years part-time* *3 years part-time*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*from September 2026 intake 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-applied-linguistics*
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 stimulating and intellectually rigorous environment in which students can engage critically with applied linguistics theory, research, and professional practice.
- To offer a flexible and coherent programme of study that allows students to explore key areas of applied linguistics, including forensic linguistics, corpus linguistics, sociolinguistics, and communication in justice contexts.
- To develop advanced analytical, research, and problem-solving skills, enabling students to investigate real-world language issues using both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- To equip students with specialist knowledge and techniques for analysing language in social, professional, and legal settings, including authorship analysis, crisis communication, interviewing strategies, and linguistic profiling.
- To enhance students' employability by providing transferable skills, such as communication, critical thinking, digital literacy, data analysis, and intercultural competence, that are valued across multiple sectors, including law, education, communication, and public service.
- To support students in applying linguistic insights to professional and societal challenges, such as safeguarding, justice, language rights, multilingual communication, and ethical decision-making.
- To develop students' ability to conduct independent research through guided supervision, ultimately enabling them to design and produce a dissertation or equivalent advanced project.
- To promote awareness of global and multicultural perspectives, preparing students to work effectively in international, cross-disciplinary, and multilingual contexts.
- To encourage reflective, ethical, and evidence-based professional practice, particularly in fields where linguistics influences legal, social, or institutional outcomes.

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	*Demonstrate a systematic and critical understanding of key concepts, theories, and analytical frameworks in applied linguistics and their relevance to real-world language issues.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
A2	*Critically evaluate alternative linguistic analyses and methodological approaches, applying appropriate criteria to assess competing interpretations of qualitative and quantitative language data.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
A3	*Show comprehensive understanding of how language operates within social, institutional, and legal contexts, including insights from sociolinguistics, discourse studies, forensic linguistics, and communication in justice settings.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
A4	*Demonstrate awareness of how applied linguistics research interfaces with related disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, education, communication studies, and criminology, and be able to articulate the implications of these interdisciplinary connections.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including*

			reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	*Critically assess and compare competing linguistic theories, analytical frameworks, and explanations, including those emerging from interdisciplinary fields.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
B2	*Independently analyse, synthesise, and evaluate complex language data from a range of sources, forming well-supported and coherent arguments.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
B3	*Critically appraise the strengths, limitations, and ethical implications of diverse research methods used in applied linguistics and related disciplines.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
B4	*Reflect systematically on learning, practice, and analytical decisions in order to refine theoretical understanding and research competence.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including*

			reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	*Apply appropriate techniques for collecting, managing, and analysing linguistic data, including corpus methods, discourse-analytic approaches, and forensic linguistic procedures.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
C2	*Conduct ethically informed research by identifying, evaluating, and addressing ethical considerations in the collection, storage, and interpretation of language data.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
C3	*Use relevant software and analytical tools (e.g., corpus platforms, transcription tools, qualitative analysis environments) to investigate linguistic patterns in professional, educational, and forensic contexts.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
C4	*Design and implement small-scale empirical studies, presenting findings in formats suitable for academic, professional, or legal audiences.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including*

			reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
D1	*Collect, evaluate, and synthesise complex information from diverse sources, including digital corpora, research literature, media texts, and institutional data, to support well-reasoned conclusions.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
D2	*Identify practical and theoretical problems in language-focused contexts and develop effective, evidence-based solutions.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
D3	*Work autonomously and collaboratively, demonstrating advanced skills in organisation, time management, initiative, and professional communication.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation*
D4	*Engage in reflective, self-directed learning, using feedback and critical self-evaluation to enhance analytical, research, and professional capabilities.*	*Recordings of seminars, lectures, guest speakers' talks Tutorials Independent study*	*AI-informed approaches and diverse coursework formats, including*

			reflective diary, critical literature review, written coursework, oral presentation, podcast, dissertation

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations / Partner-Specific Assessment Regulations *(Delete as appropriate - partners will follow UoP regs unless they have specific 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.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides support through the Faculty's central pastoral tutoring system; and through its academic tutors.

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:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- 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
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for **Linguistics**
- 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.

Copyright

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

Document Details	
CSD Template date	*July 2025*
Author	*Dr Alex Prunean*
Date of production and version number	*17th November 2025, Version 1*
Date of update and version number	*[Date] [Version number]*
Minimum student registration numbers	*10*