



Durham
University

The English Language Centre

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

Validated

by the British Association of Lecturers
in English for Academic Purposes
(BALEAP) for our Summer pre-sessional
programme.



The English Language Centre

The English Language Centre provides high quality English language teaching expertise for students at all levels: pre-university entry, undergraduate and postgraduate. The Centre plays a central role in enhancing the experience of both home and international students.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

In addition to our MA TESOL programmes outlined in this guide, we help international students make the most of their time at Durham by offering both pre-sessional and in-sessional English language support together with an insight into British academic culture.

The summer pre-sessional programme is one of the few in the UK to be validated by the British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes (BALEAP).

In-sessional courses are free of charge to Durham University students and provide invaluable support through an extensive programme of tuition and tutorials.

We also offer a year round pre-sessional programme, which can lead to the Certificate of English and Academic Study award and university entry.

TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

MA TESOL and MA in Applied Language Studies for TESOL

The MA programmes are designed for anyone with an interest in the wider aspects of teaching English as a foreign language, combining innovative classroom practices with an understanding of issues such as language structure and research methodology.

While the MA in Applied Language Studies for TESOL is aimed at experienced language teachers, the MA in TESOL is intended for those with little or no teaching experience. These programmes offer two broad streams with a common core of syllabus design and assessment and each degree then provides greater depth with further required modules outlined below, focussing on both theoretical and practical aspects of the English language and on classroom practice.

“It’s simply wonderful! Not only have I gained from the teaching training courses, I’ve also met people from different backgrounds and cultures.”

Winnie Ng, Hong Kong Institution of Education.

Students then have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge base by taking three or four further modules covering a wide range of relevant issues. Both MAs are completed by a 15,000 word dissertation.

Typical modules – MA TESOL

Core:

- Language for Teaching
- Syllabus Design and Assessment
- Language Teaching Methods and Practice.

Options:

- Research Methods
- World Englishes
- English for Specific Purposes
- ELT Materials Development & Evaluation
- Discourse, Texts and TESOL
- Language Teaching Methodology.



MA in Applied Language Studies for TESOL

Core:

- Syllabus Design and Assessment
- Language Teaching Methodology
- Lessons from Language
- Research Methods.

Options:

- Language for Teaching
- World Englishes
- English for Specific Purposes
- ELT Materials Development and Evaluation
- Discourse, Texts and TESOL.

MODULE OVERVIEWS

Discourse, Text and TESOL

This module considers the potential impact on second language learning, teaching and materials design of a text-level, socially-embedded view of language. Drawing on insights and tools from, for example, genre theory and systemic functional linguistics, the module will re-examine the traditional realms of language teaching (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and skills development) in terms of how they shape and are shaped by the larger linguistic, social and cultural contexts in which they occur. The module then examines the implications of such a view for the language classroom.

English for Specific Purposes

This module explores language teaching and learning in particular environments. Issues in teaching English for specific purposes are explored both in terms of theoretical questions of appropriate methodology as well as more practical questions of needs analysis and syllabus design. Students will create a needs analysis tool from which they will then design a specialised programme in English for specific purposes.

Language for Teaching

This course provides the foundation for the core areas in language description. The course will cover phonology, morphology and syntax within the context of language teaching. The topics covered include phonetics/phonology: articulatory phonetics, phonemic analysis, distinctive feature theory, phonological processes; morphology: morphemes and allomorphs, inflection and derivation, morphological analysis, levels of morphology; syntax: word classes, constituent structure, tree diagrams and syntactic rules.

Language Teaching Methodology

This module explores the practices, underlying philosophies and methodological implications of the range of mainstream and alternative teaching methods that currently exist as a first step towards putting these principles into practice. It also situates current methodology in a historical context. The course places emphasis on the roles of teachers and learners in language learning and how these can vary across different methods. With this sound background in pedagogic principles, teachers are able to make informed

decisions about syllabus content, method of instruction and materials selection at a level appropriate to a particular classroom situation.

Language Teaching Methods and Practice

This module looks at the planning and practice of English language teaching. It will serve as an interface between the more theoretical components of the course and the students' future practice, showing the relevance of the theory to the classroom.

It will examine the learner and learning styles, classroom management, teaching language and the four skills and lesson planning based on existing pedagogical literature and syllabus design options currently available for curriculum planning. During the module, students will design lessons and experience some small group micro teaching. Students will be encouraged to explore methods suitable to their own teaching context and style.

Lessons from Language

This module bridges the gap between linguistic theory and classroom teaching. It begins with a survey of the range of theories that currently exist and then addresses issues in language learning/teaching that arise when applying theory to the classroom. The Generative perspective on language will be contrasted with Emergentist and Cognitive-Linguistic views in terms of their applicability to the language classroom. The latter then forms the basis for much of the second term focus on classroom applications of insights from linguistics.

ELT Materials Development and Evaluation

This module is focused on developing a theoretical and practical approach to materials design, evaluation and development. It involves students developing a practical understanding of the principles and procedures of the design, implementation and evaluation of language teaching materials. Through familiarisation with current approaches and methods in coursebook and materials design, students will work with and adapt a range of published teaching materials

for a variety of specific contexts. The module will pay particular attention to issues of cultural and linguistic appropriacy, age and level of learners and current teaching methodology.

Research Methods

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the principles underlying research in applied language studies and to explore different types of research methods. This course will explore fundamental statistical principles so that students are able to interpret the kinds of statistical reports most frequently found in language teaching research. This knowledge of research methodology allows for critical evaluation of experimental studies in applied language studies, and the student will design and conduct their own classroom-based experiment. The module will also explore issues in assessment and evaluation in language teaching. Students will design their own assessment tool directed at a specific student cohort.



Syllabus Design and Assessment

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the principles underlying syllabus design in applied language studies. Students are responsible for the formulation and implementation of a current approach in the creation of specimen materials. Additionally, the module will explore issues in assessment and evaluation in language teaching. After their mastery of different language assessment procedures, students will implement them such that they reflect different views of language, while remaining consistent with the goals and objectives of language teaching expressed by the syllabus.

World Englishes

This module provides an examination of geographically-based linguistic variation (accents and dialects), and differentiation and classification of regional varieties of English throughout the English-speaking world. There will be detailed examination of a number of such varieties. The module also looks at the spread of English as used by non-native speakers of the language, and the characteristics of non-native Englishes.

Practical Teaching

In addition to the main MA programmes, we may also be able to offer a short course in Practical Teaching Experience, mainly aimed at inexperienced teachers or teachers with little language teaching experience who would like more practice. This one or two week workshop gives students the opportunity to teach foreign learners and gain valuable teaching experience. Lessons will be peer observed as well as assessed by a teacher trainer. There will be both class and individual feedback which will focus on aspects of teaching that arise in the lessons.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

- MA TESOL: A good first degree (normally a UK 2.1 or equivalent)
- MA Applied Language Studies for TESOL: A good first degree (normally a UK 2.1 or equivalent) plus at least two years' English language teaching experience.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS 7.0 (with no component under 7.0) or equivalent.

For further information on entry requirements for all programmes please see www.durham.ac.uk/languagecentre

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office at international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit the International Office website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

The University has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit www.durham.ac.uk/languagecentre/postgraduate/employability

Name:
Muneer Alqahtani

Home Country:
Saudi Arabia

Postgraduate Course:
MA TESOL

I found Durham University through searching the web looking for an MA in TESOL that would enhance my teaching qualifications; I found that the programme at Durham was very appropriate to achieve that aim.

The content and design of the course attracted me initially, and the members of staff in the Department are very helpful and are always happy to provide assistance and guidance whenever it is needed.

This course is important for preparing those who want to become teachers of English, and for me my qualification will certainly give me more opportunities to return home and work as an English teacher. I am intending to apply for a PhD degree at Durham, and this course is an important requirement and has enriched my knowledge about the field so I know which areas I'm looking at in my future studies.

I am very fond of the City of Durham, and being a postgraduate in this world-class university has enhanced my research skills and critical thinking about different issues which will benefit my future career.



Contact details

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