PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**Graduate Certificate Linguistic Studies** (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	N/A
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Part-time (1 or 2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Linguistics
Birkbeck Course Code	GCGLINGS_C
HECoS Code	100970 applied linguistics
Start date of programme	Autumn 2009/10
Date of programme approval	Summer 2009
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	22/11/2022

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants with a good first degree (2:2 and above) but also those without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

Our Graduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies offers the opportunity for those who do not have a second-class honours degree in a relevant subject (theoretical or applied linguistics) to gain an understanding of the social, interpersonal and psychological aspects of human language and communication systems, and to enhance their academic skills in linguistics. It provides training in aspects of both theory and practice in the field of linguistics, language and communication. Successful students can progress from this qualification onto our MA programmes in linguistics and communication.

Students are taught by specialists in the Department of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics, a centre of teaching and research excellence. Applied linguistics has been taught at Birkbeck since 1965.

Lectures and seminars are typically on one-two evenings per week over two academic terms, depending on options chosen.

Course structure

The programme can be taken over 1 or 2 years as shown below:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-time – 1 year					
6	SSAC003S6	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	1
6		Linguistics options (2 x 15 credits)	30	Options	T1-2
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
6	SSAC003S6	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
6		Linguistic option (1 x 15 credits)	15	Option	T1 or 2
Year 2					
6		Linguistic option	15	Option	T1 or 2
OR					
Part-time – 2 years (alternative 2-year structure)					
Year 1					
6	SSAC003S6	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
Year 2					
6		Linguistic options (2 x 15 credits)	30	Option	T1 or 2

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

Indicative list of Linguistics options:

Options are normally offered in alternate years in each grouping:

Group 1
SSAC038H6 Language Learning
SSAC039H6 Language Teaching

Group 2
SSAC031H6 Neurolinguistics
SSAC033H6 Psycholinguistics

Group 3
SSAC042H6 Multilingual and Multicultural Communities
SSAC043H6 Multilingual and Multicultural Individuals

Group 4
SSAC049H6 Sociolinguistics
& either
SSAC068H6 Language and the City
or
SSAC054H6 Identity in Applied Linguistics Research

NB should students progress to the MA Applied Linguistics and Communication or Language Teaching/TESOL they cannot take the same option modules completed for the Graduate Certificate (if offered in subsequent years) at Level 7 for their MA award, but must select other options.

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

The certificate is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Teaching on this programme of study is a combination of lectures (some pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. Students' understanding of the lecture/presentation material is reinforced by interactive discussion. This suits the mature student body, whose life experience and cultural background is a resource in the learning process. Within lectures/seminars students will be encouraged to carry out small group work which is designed to allow students to undertake focused tasks in a supportive environment and to develop their creative, analytical, communication and interpersonal skills, as appropriate. Discussion group work is designed to develop students critical and analytical, presentation and communication skills. Often material is set in advance for which students will need to prepare.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through take-home exams and essays.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

Studying linguistics develops a number of skills, including reasoning skills, abstract thinking, being able to critique and evaluate ideas, synthesise information from different sources, and problem solving. Linguistics also helps to develop the ability to construct and evaluate models, and explore the relationships between theories and the phenomena that theories are designed to explain.

On successful completion of the course you will be expected to be able to:

- Understand key concepts in linguistics and to apply them to analysing how language is used.
- Develop a critical understanding of human language, and what makes it unique among communication systems.
- Construct and evaluate linguistic arguments
- Compare and evaluate different ways of analysing data, and the nature and limitations of the various theoretical frameworks which have been proposed to explain language.
- Appreciate different areas of theoretical and applied linguistic investigation

Careers and further study

You will find Linguistics graduates in a wide range of roles in the creative industries, as well as, in education, law, the media, the civil service and business roles, to name a few. Our graduates leave with valuable attributes such as:

High-level oral and written communication skills in English

- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing various types of information
- The ability to convey ideas and build an argument
- The ability to analyse and process complex ideas
- Independent research skills as well as the ability to work as part of a team

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle

module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).