



University of Essex



Graduate Programmes in
Applied Linguistics and ELT



The Department of Language and Linguistics at Essex has been offering degrees in Linguistics for four decades. We have steadily increased in size, and are now one of the largest and most prestigious departments of this kind anywhere in the world. At any given time, we have over 200 graduate students in the Department, mostly pursuing an MA or a PhD.

Why study Applied Linguistics / ELT at the University of Essex?

- Eleven specialised MA programmes in the areas of Applied Linguistics and ELT – more than anywhere else in the UK
- Both highly specialised and more general programmes
- Open to both full-time and part-time students
- Rated 'excellent' for research, which guarantees that teaching is informed by world-class research
- High student ratings given to our departmental modules, teaching, facilities, and the friendliness, approachability and helpfulness of our staff
- Strong research group culture, with staff regularly collaborating and co-publishing with their research students
- Excellent research facilities, including language corpus facilities, such as the British National Corpus and CHILDES
- Approximately 15,900 volumes in the Library's linguistics holdings and subscriptions to 150 linguistics journals
- Everything you need is close at hand on the campus and there are security staff to attend to your safety
- Green campus (750 acres of parkland with three lakes) close to the historic Roman town of Colchester, and an hour away by train from London
- Plenty of student accommodation on campus, costs generally lower and the quality of life higher than elsewhere in the south-east of England

Our MA programmes

Each programme consists of eight modules, followed by a supervised dissertation. You can also audit additional modules to follow your interests. We offer over a 100 optional modules to cover a wide variety of topics.

General programmes

MA Teaching English as a Foreign

Language is aimed at those who intend to become professional teachers of English but have little or no prior teaching experience.

MA English Language Teaching is designed to enable experienced teachers of English as a second or foreign language (TEFL/TESOL) to develop and update their knowledge.

MA Applied Linguistics explores second language acquisition, focusing on how learners develop L2 knowledge and what role classroom practice plays in that development.

Specialist programmes

MA Computer Assisted Language Learning

MA ELT - Young Learners

MA English for Specific Purposes

MA Language Testing and Programme Evaluation

MA Applied Linguistic Research

MA Second Language Acquisition

MA Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Communication

MA Management and Professional Communication

It is generally possible to change your programme on arrival if you change your mind.



Our MA Students



Fotini Grammatosi
MA English Language
Teaching

"I chose Essex because it is rated a top ten institution for teaching and research in the UK.

My degree course is well-designed, practical and flexible with a great variety of independent, yet interrelated modules. It allows me to reflect on what I do when teaching and to rethink my own principles and practice in the light of other people's theories and research. Apart from the satisfaction of the learning itself and its contribution to my professional expertise, this course will also equip me with an internationally recognized qualification and hopefully better career prospects.

The lecturers are incredibly helpful and approachable and there is plenty of support available for students in all aspects of their lives. The University's Colchester Campus is located in beautiful parkland. It has a lively cosmopolitan environment which helps you to get to know people from all over the world really quickly. On campus there are computer facilities, a massive library and enough shops, banks and restaurants to cater for all students' needs as well as a range of great night-time venues. There are also many sports clubs and societies. You can never get bored at Essex. I love it."



Awad al-Kareem al-Hassan
MA Applied Linguistics

"I like my programme because I have the freedom to choose different modules. These

modules have contributed greatly to the development of my research insights by opening up a lot of new horizons for me to explore.

I particularly like the high degree of commitment and dedication the staff here at Essex give to their research and publication, and the way the teaching is conducted. The classes are discussion forums which I have found provide great opportunities to reflect on my experiences and to exchange ideas with classmates from different cultural, literacy and educational backgrounds. Teaching is highly informative and research-oriented, and department's academic staff are very friendly, accessible and helpful.

You can also join one or more of the many research groups, where various topics are presented and discussed by staff and postgraduate students. I have joined the ESP/EAP research group, which has provided me with a lot of ideas for my current and future studies."



Pei-Yi Chou
MA English Language
Teaching

"Essex is a great place to study; life here is quiet and simple. There is everything you need on

campus which makes it very easy for all students, including those from overseas to settle in. Colchester is close to London and to local airports so it is very convenient if you want to go travelling or shopping.

I have had lots of freedom to select the modules I need. This is really useful for experienced teachers to avoid modules they have taken in the past. The Department provides various modules on linguistic and teaching aspects, and the classes are small and intimate. The knowledge and skills I am learning are very relevant for real classroom teaching. All of the lecturers are very friendly and helpful. I have also met a lot of classmates from different countries, and sharing teaching experiences together has been very useful."

Our PhD Programmes

We offer two types of PhD programmes: PhD by supervised research (three years), which is also available on a distance basis, and an integrated 'New Route' PhD programme (four years), which combines taught modules tailored to suit your research project and supervised research.

Examples of current PhD topics in applied linguistics and ELT include aspects of L3 acquisition, dictionary use strategies, writing strategies in L1 and L2, acquisition of the English article system by speakers of Arabic, emotion words in foreign language acquisition, and conversational styles in group oral tests.

Our PhD Students

Fumiyo Nakatsuhara
PhD Applied Linguistics

"After completing my MA, I was very fortunate to receive the Overseas Research Student Award and the Essex

Postgraduate Research Scholarship to fund my PhD study. My research is on language testing under the supervision of Mr Tony Lilley, OBE. In addition to Tony's professional guidance and ceaseless encouragement, the Department has friendly academic staff with a wide range of disciplines, from whom I have obtained a great amount of interdisciplinary input. PhD students are allocated an office to share with other colleagues, and I am very lucky to have lovely officemates to exchange ideas and constructive feedback with.

The Department has also supported me to present papers in national and international conferences, and this has provided me with the opportunity to get to know language testers from all over the world. I was very lucky that my MA dissertation was awarded an IELTS Masters Award and that my paper was accepted by an international journal! When I need a rest from studying, I enjoy jogging with friends around campus and feeling the beauty of England. Essex has provided me with a great international environment where I have made many good friends from different cultures and backgrounds!"



Reem Issa
PhD Applied Linguistics

"After I finished my BA English Language at the University of Aleppo in Syria, I stayed there to complete a Diploma in Linguistics. I became more interested in the subject of linguistics and was inspired to continue my study. I decided to come to an English speaking country to complete an MA and PhD.

I chose to study for my MA at the University of Essex because some of my friends had studied at Essex and encouraged me to consider it. When I looked into it, I discovered how well Essex is known for its academic research in Linguistics. I am now studying for a PhD, and the support given to me by my inspiring supervisors is reinforced by the modules and research groups I have joined."



Careers in Applied Linguistics and ELT

Many of our graduates find jobs in the ELT/TESOL sector or in foreign language teaching in general. Our MA programmes provide important core and advanced training for various professions in language education, such as language teaching at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, in both private and public educational institutions, syllabus design, materials development and evaluation, test development, programme evaluation and others.

Applied linguistics graduates may also find positions in businesses, the legal profession, health services and various government organisations recruiting communication officers, especially in multicultural environments.

Another career path lies in academic research in a university setting, following postgraduate work (generally a PhD). Our applied linguistics and ELT degrees are interdisciplinary and offer career prospects in both linguistics and education departments.

Academic Staff

Dr Helen Emery

Helen is interested in the teaching, testing and development of ESL literacy skills from emergent literacy to university level. Her other interests include the training of overseas teachers, teaching young learners and vocabulary acquisition.

Dr Adela Ganem

Adela's interests include computer-assisted language learning, sociocultural theory, interaction in the classroom, the role of feedback and scaffolding in SLA, and pedagogic tasks.

Dr Julian Good

Julian's main interests are in materials evaluation, teachers' beliefs, classroom interaction and lesson content, the perception of native and non-native English speaking teachers, the construction of EFL teacher identity, and the effect of ELT on language diversity.

Dr Nigel Harwood

Nigel's main research interests are in the areas of academic writing, EAP, materials design, and corpus-driven pedagogy. He has published papers on how pronouns are used in research articles and in student writing and on critical pedagogy. He is on the editorial board of *English for Specific Purposes*.

Professor Roger Hawkins

Roger's main interests are in second language acquisition research. He has published numerous articles, is one of the editors of the journal *Second Language Research*, and is the author of *Second Language Syntax: A Generative Introduction* (Blackwell, 2001).

Mr Anthony Lilley

Anthony's interests include language teacher education, ESP, EFL proficiency testing, EAP reading skills and project management.

Dr Bojana Petrić

Bojana's research interests include EAP, writing pedagogy, and discourse analysis of student and published writing.

Dr Karen Roehr

Karen's main research interest is in the area of implicit/explicit L2 learning and the role of metalinguistic knowledge in particular. She is also interested in individual learner differences such as language learning aptitude and cognitive/learning style.

Mr Phil Scholfield

Phil's interests lie in vocabulary teaching, learning and use by foreign learners, learner strategies, learners' dictionaries, and empirical methods and statistics in language research. He is the author of *Quantifying Language* and is on the editorial board of *Language Awareness*.



Other MA Programmes offered by the Department of Language and Linguistics

Computational Linguistics
English Language and Linguistics
Language Disorders
Linguistics
Linguistic Studies
Phonology
Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics
Sociolinguistics
Sociolinguistics of the Arab World
Syntax
Varieties of English



Other members of staff

Dr Enam Al Wer
Dr Doug Arnold
Professor Bob Borsley
Dr David Britain
Professor Harald Clahsen

Dr Rebecca Clift
Dr Sonja Eisenbeiss
Dr Claudia Felser
Dr Wyn Johnson
Dr Mike Jones

Dr Nancy Kula
Professor Peter Patrick
Professor Andrew Radford
Professor Louisa Sadler
Professor Andrew Spencer

Further information

This leaflet is designed to be read in conjunction with the *Postgraduate Prospectus*. Copies may be obtained by telephoning the Graduate Admissions Office: +44 1206 872719 or by visiting our website: www.essex.ac.uk.

For more information about our MA and PhD programmes, entrance requirements, the application procedure and career options please visit our website at www.essex.ac.uk/linguistics or contact us by e-mail or by telephone:

	Taught degrees	Research degrees
International enquiries	e-mail: ling-pgt@essex.ac.uk telephone: +44 1206 874470	e-mail: ling-research@essex.ac.uk telephone: +44 1206 873473
Home and EU enquiries	e-mail: laladms@essex.ac.uk telephone: 01206 873473	e-mail: ling-research@essex.ac.uk telephone: 01206 873473
Apply online at: www.essex.ac.uk/pgadmit		