

## Programme Specification

### I. Programme Details

<b>Programme title</b>	Language Documentation & Description			
<b>Final award</b> ( <i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the <a href="#">Taught Degree Regulations</a></i> )	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ...	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	On-campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Professional body accreditation</b> ( <i>if applicable</i> )	n/a			
<b>Academic year this specification was created</b>	2016/17			
<b>Dates of any subsequent amendments</b>				

### II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The main aim is to provide students with sufficient knowledge of the modern approach to the documentation and description of minority and endangered languages, both from a theoretical and practical viewpoint.</li> <li>2. The programme also teaches to support endangered and minority language communities in a number of ways.</li> <li>3. The programme provides students with sufficient transferable skills to enable them to function in other professional environments, especially those related to language.</li> <li>4. The programme is designed to ensure either a further qualification in language documentation and description or as preparation for research (MPhil/PhD) study. By the end of the course students are able to pursue further research or training, at either PhD or professional level.</li> </ol>
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### III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

<b>Learning Outcomes: Knowledge</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Familiarity with the basic concepts and assumptions of different theoretical frameworks in the discipline, and the ability to critically question and evaluate these assumptions.</li> <li>2. Acquiring a solid foundation in 'core' areas of language documentation.</li> <li>3. Familiarity with the relevant conventions and methodology applicable to work with both raw linguistic data and existing linguistic descriptions.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of relevant knowledge through lectures, seminars and tutorials.</li> <li>• Students are required to study extensively on their own and integrate the material learned through coursework and essays.</li> <li>• Acquisition of knowledge through readings and research in regular courses, and a systematic introduction to linguistics research sources in the Research Training Seminar.</li> <li>• For individual research interests within the areas of SOAS expertise which are</li> </ul>	

specialised enough not to warrant a regular, full-scale course, a Directed Readings.	
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<b>Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The ability to formulate appropriate linguistic problems, propose and evaluate analyses and present evidence (for and/or against) these analyses.</li> <li>2. Knowledge of how to assess data and evidence critically from the literature and original sources, how to formulate analyses and arguments within the system of concepts and assumptions in the discipline, how to solve problems of conflicting sources and conflicting interpretations.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of intellectual skills is fostered in all courses offered in the programme, in that all courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how a given issue, problem or data set can be investigated from different perspectives.</li> <li>• It further takes place as students (under the individual supervision of members of the academic staff) develop their own lines of research within individual courses and in their dissertation work.</li> </ul>	

<b>Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Practising research techniques in specialised research libraries and through consultant work.</li> <li>2. Retrieving and selecting information from a variety of linguistic sources.</li> <li>3. Students should be familiar with the relevant conventions and methodology applicable to work with recording, transcribing and analyzing linguistic data.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of subject-based practical skills through the writing of long essays, tutorials associated with core lectures, practical training sessions and various departmental and interdepartmental seminars.</li> <li>• Acquisition of subject-based research methodologies through the Research</li> <li>• Training Seminar and through the research required for essay and dissertation preparation.</li> </ul>	

<b>Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training in locating materials and using research sources (library holdings, 'raw' language data, periodicals, and the internet).</li> <li>2. Structuring and communicating ideas effectively in writing</li> <li>3. Questioning, understanding and evaluating competing proposals.</li> </ol>

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training in communicating ideas in speaking and writing processes through group discussions (in tutorials and seminars), long essays, coursework, dissertation writing, as well as through individual meetings/supervisions with members of staff.</li> <li>• The ability to work with materials will be training through Research Foundation Seminar and individual work during the preparation of the dissertation.</li> </ul>	

<b>General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes</b>
<p>Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.</p> <p>As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see <a href="https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/">https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/</a>) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.</p> <p>At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.</p> <p>More information can be found on individual module pages.</p>

**MA Language Documentation & Description (Field Linguistics)**

	<b>Dissertation</b>
credits	60
module code	15PLIC999
module title	Dissertation in Linguistics
status	compulsory module

	<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>
credits	30		15		15		30		30
module code	15PLIC019		15PLIH024		15PLIH043				
module title	Field Methods	+	Applied Language Documentation & Description	+	Descriptive Linguistics	+	any PGT Linguistics module	+	see open options list
status	core module		core module		core module		guided option*		open option

**\*List of modules (subject to availability)**

Code	Title	Credits
15PLIH042	Advanced Phonology	15
15PLIH008	Advanced Syntax (Masters)	15
15PLIC015	Applied Linguistics and Language Pedagogy	30
15PLIH050	Arabic Linguistics and Language Pedagogy	15
15PLIH048	Concepts and Practice of Subtitling	15
15PLIH051	Conference Interpreting (English/Chinese)	15
15PLIH029	Contrastive Grammar: Arabic/English	15
15PLIH001	Directed Readings in Linguistics/the Structure of Language A	15
15PLIH002	Directed Readings in Linguistics/the Structure of Language B	15
15PLIH031	Dynamic Syntax (Masters)	15
15PLIH020	Historical Linguistics (Masters)	15
15PLIH054	Intercultural Communication and Interaction	15
15PLIH055	Intercultural communication research in action	15
15PLIC008	Introduction to the Study of Language	30
15PLIH012	Issues in Semantics (Masters)	15
15PLIH037	Korean Applied Linguistics and Language Pedagogy	15
15PLIH032	Language Planning and Policy	15
15PLIH033	Language support and revitalisation	15
15PLIH004	Language, Society and Communication (Masters)	15
15PLIH015	Linguistic Typology (Masters)	15
15PLIH006	Morphology (Masters)	15
15PLIH045	Phonetics (PG)	15
15PLIH041	Phonology (Masters)	15
15PLIH052	Practical Translation Arabic into English	15
15PLIH053	Practical Translation English into Arabic	15
15PLIH005	Psychology of Language (Masters)	15
15PLIH038	Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism	15
15PLIH040	Syntax (Masters)	15
15PLIH039	Tibetan Linguistics and Language Pedagogy	15
15PLIH003	Topics in Lexical Semantics (MA)	15
15PLIH009	Topics in the Structure of Chinese (Masters)	15
15PLIH035	Translation of Journalistic Texts from and into Chinese	15
15PLIH049	Translation Technology	15
15PLIH047	Translation Theory	15

**MA Language Documentation & Description (Language Support & Revitalisation)**

	<b>Dissertation</b>
credits	60
module code	15PLIC999
module title	Dissertation in Linguistics
status	compulsory module

	<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>
credits	30		15		15		30		30
module code	15PLIC008		15PLIH024		15PLIH033				
module title	Introduction to the Study of Language	+	Applied Language Documentation & Description	+	Language Support & Revitalisation	+	any PGT Linguistics module	+	see open options list
status	core module		core module		core module		guided option*		open option

**\*List of modules (subject to availability)**

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15PLIH042	Advanced Phonology	15
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15PLIC015	Applied Linguistics and Language Pedagogy	30
15PLIH050	Arabic Linguistics and Language Pedagogy	15
15PLIH048	Concepts and Practice of Subtitling	15
15PLIH051	Conference Interpreting (English/Chinese)	15
15PLIH029	Contrastive Grammar: Arabic/English	15
15PLIH043	Descriptive Linguistics	15
15PLIH001	Directed Readings in Linguistics/the Structure of Language A	15
15PLIH002	Directed Readings in Linguistics/the Structure of Language B	15
15PLIH031	Dynamic Syntax (Masters)	15
15PLIC019	Field Methods	30
15PLIH020	Historical Linguistics (Masters)	15
15PLIH054	Intercultural Communication and Interaction	15
15PLIH055	Intercultural communication research in action	15
15PLIH012	Issues in Semantics (Masters)	15
15PLIH037	Korean Applied Linguistics and Language Pedagogy	15
15PLIH032	Language Planning and Policy	15
15PLIH004	Language, Society and Communication (Masters)	15
15PLIH015	Linguistic Typology (Masters)	15
15PLIH006	Morphology (Masters)	15
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15PLIH035	Translation of Journalistic Texts from and into Chinese	15
15PLIH049	Translation Technology	15
15PLIH047	Translation Theory	15