

M.A. Management of Language Learning

Aims and Rational of the Programme

This programme is designed particularly for both graduates with teaching experience and practising language teachers and trainers who wish to build a career in modern languages and English as a foreign language. It enables students to make an effective contribution to language learning in their organisation through research, development and the application of newly acquired knowledge, and enhance career prospects in further and higher education.

The programme introduces students to research in applied languages, in particular those research activities and themes that affect the language learning environment, including second language acquisition, language testing, and communicative language teaching. Students will also explore the interface between research in language learning and the practical learning environment. They will acquire technology skills to write and use computer-aided language learning tools.

Structure of the Programme

The MA in Management of Language Learning comprises four taught core courses (120 credits in total) including one research /methodology course as well as a significant research component involving a dissertation of 15,000 words in length (60 credits). The programme will be taught by New York College in full-time mode. There are two teaching terms and the third term (including the summer) is devoted to the student producing a supervised dissertation.

The typical course offered will be worth 30 credits and will normally extend over one semester. Teaching will be delivered in weekly three-hours sessions and/or on weekend mode, divided between lecture periods, seminar discussions, and other group work according to the teaching programme. Tutorial time will also be made available each week in order that students may be seen on an individual basis if required. The normal minimum period of study will be one calendar year.

Courses

- Second Language Acquisition
- Current Methodologies in Communicative Language Teaching and Testing
- Use of Information Technology in Language Learning
- Research Methods in Language Learning
- Dissertation

Entry Requirements

A good first degree and teaching experience.

Career Options

Teacher of languages in schools, colleges or universities, or running a department of languages.

Assessment

Essays and dissertation.

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Course Descriptions

Second Language Acquisition

Understanding Second Language Acquisition theories developed in the last twenty years is a fundamental issue for anyone who is involved and want to carry out research in language learning. This course enables students to understand the principle issues in SLA, the methods used to research in SLA and to evaluate the findings in this field. This semester course will form the theoretical foundation of the programme.

The Use of ICT in Language Learning

The use of Information Technology has been developed significantly in recent years in language learning and is likely to continue to in the near future. It is therefore important to establish a framework within which information technology is used in language learning, to understand how best IT can support the language learner and to redefine the role of language lecturer/teacher.

Current Methodologies in Language Teaching

This course applies the research in Second Language Acquisition to the teaching environment showing how Second Language Acquisition theories can affect pedagogical practice. The focus of this course in on the communicative language teaching approach.

Research Methods in Language Learning

This course provides a supported learning environment to develop an awareness of the role of research in academic development. This course will prepare students for the dissertation.

Dissertation

The course will also give the students the opportunity to carry out, with tutorial guidance, a sustained piece of independent research in an area relevant to second language acquisition and language learning. The research project is assessed by a dissertation of 15,000 words in the final part of the programme. The research project will be classroom-based in nature.