

# M.A. Applied Linguistics (TESOL)

## Aims and Rationale 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 M.A. in Applied Linguistics (TESOL) comprises seven 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 or part-time mode. There are two teaching terms and the third term (including the summer) is devoted to the student producing a supervised dissertation. Teaching will be delivered on approximately three Saturdays a month for a period of one calendar year. Tutorial time will also be made available each week in order that students may be seen on an individual basis if required.

## Courses

- Dissertation (60 credits)
- Research Methods (30 credits)
- Contemporary Theories in SLA (15 credits)
- Syntax and Semantics (15 credits)
- Perspectives on Translation (15 credits)
- Key Issues in TESOL (15 credits)
- Language Variation & Language Acquisition (15 credits)
- Materials Development & Language Testing (15 credits)

## 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 (5,000 words each), one Exam, and Dissertation (15,000 words).



**NEW YORK COLLEGE**  
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**For more information contact:**

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## Course Descriptions

### Dissertation

Students will have the opportunity to carry out a sustained piece of independent research in an area relevant to applied linguistics, language teaching, second language acquisition, or bilingualism with one-to-one guidance from an appropriate research supervisor. Typically, students will produce a 12,000-15,000 word dissertation.

### Research Methods

This course offers an introduction to research traditions in applied linguistics/second language acquisition/language teaching. It aims to develop students' awareness of the role of scientific enquiry in language learning, and prepares them for the dissertation element of the programme.

### Contemporary Theories in Second Language Acquisition

This course focusses on current theories and concepts within the field of second acquisition, and the application of these theories to the processes involved in second acquisition, language teaching (linking theory and practice) and issues surrounding methodology in language learning and teaching.

### Syntax and Semantics

This course provides students with knowledge in the analysis of language, focusing on structure and meaning, at the required master's level. A solid command of the grammatical mechanisms involved in the production and comprehension of language prepares students to access other areas of applied linguistics studies such as language acquisition and other industrial applications, e.g., automatic translation.

### Perspectives on Translation

The course explores translation both as a product and process taking into account different text types and genres. Students will learn about translation strategies in the transposition of language and culture.

### Key Issues in TESOL

The course aims to extend students' knowledge of a range of key contemporary issues within the field of English Language Teaching and familiarize them with different approaches and methods used in English Language Teaching since the mid-20th century. Students engage critically with current thinking concerning English Language Teaching and analyse the social and cultural factors which influence English language teaching in specific contexts. It helps students to reflect on their own experiences as learners and/or teachers, to evaluate their own understanding and proficiency, and to help them to further their professional development by extending their analytical, critical and global outlook.

### Language Variation & Language Acquisition

Students will have the opportunity to identify and describe differences and similarities between English and other languages, with a view to aiding cross-linguistic understanding from a theoretical perspective. This in turn will allow reflection on pedagogical and practical issues in the classroom.

### Materials Development & Language Testing

In part one, students will be introduced to the principles of syllabus and materials design while engaging in practical development of classroom materials for general EFL and specific purposes language classrooms. Students will also be expected to engage in critical debates on the role and future of material development and publishing in the era of digital communication and translation machines as well as in critical debates on biases and stereotypes portrayed in language textbooks. In part two, students will engage in a critical appreciation of the differences between assessing and teaching - their rationale and ethics - against the background of current assessment and testing practices. The practical focus of the course expects students to demonstrate an ability in assessing language proficiency in the four skills as well as in designing and administering language assessment and tests.