PhD
TESOL Research
Faculty of Social Sciences

http://www.stir.ac.uk/18b
The PhD in TESOL Research is an exciting new way to achieve a PhD. We believe this innovative programme will be welcomed by students who want support with research methods and design but who also want to achieve a PhD qualification.

Fiona Copland, TESOL Professor

Is a PhD in TESOL Research for me?

This programme will appeal to you should you wish to develop your research skills and to become an autonomous researcher. Our PhD in TESOL Research (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) will provide you with an opportunity to go beyond what would be required from a Master’s of Research (MRes) and an Educational Doctorate (EdD) in that you will produce a more substantial 60,000-word thesis. Before embarking on your thesis investigation, the programme will foster your research skill development through seven taught modules on TESOL, research methods and educational theories. This academic support is one of the key differences between the University of Stirling’s PhD in TESOL Research and other comparable PhD programmes currently on offer in the UK. Completing your PhD will be a major achievement in your life.

This qualification will mark you out as an expert researcher in the field of TESOL. You will achieve new skills in understanding complex matters, sharpen your problem solving abilities, increase your confidence as a researcher and expand your knowledge of the field while also enjoying the PhD experience, which is an often overlooked aspect of the process. The academic environment at Stirling will not only give you freedom and challenges, but it will also provide you with numerous chances for intellectual debate with fellow experts. Your PhD journey will shape your future like no other qualification – academically, professionally and personally.

For further information on course content visit: http://stir.ac.uk/18b
Why a PhD in TESOL Research?

New for 2016, the PhD in TESOL Research is a unique programme, offered at the University of Stirling.

This ground-breaking programme will develop your research skills to a professional level, which is characteristic of a PhD degree, and support your learning through seven modules, a feature of taught doctorates. During your time at Stirling, your learning will be facilitated by tutors who have extensive expertise in TESOL, research methods and/or educational theories. This is a novel PhD programme across the UK, which is entirely dedicated to TESOL Research.

If you are interested in investigating language use, teaching and/or learning, this PhD programme will be of interest to you. The PhD will challenge the boundaries of your academic knowledge and will be a rewarding experience both personally and professionally.

Research and employment opportunities

There are thousands of qualified teachers of English to speakers of other languages worldwide; however, only a small proportion of these practitioners actually know how to conduct a high-quality systematic research in TESOL. Your PhD in TESOL Research will equip you with much needed research skills, allowing you to produce research which is at the forefront of our discipline. The PhD degree will open up numerous possibilities for furthering your professional and academic career.

The University of Stirling is committed to enhancing your employability. Once you register for the PhD in TESOL Research, you will have access to the first-class range of services offered by the Career Development Centre, which you can avail of even after your graduation. Within TESOL, we additionally provide you with a tailored workshop series entitled “My career in TESOL” aimed at developing your awareness of continuous professional development, your knowledge of job market requirements and your confidence in applying for jobs. Your time as a PhD student at Stirling will not only help you to develop your research skills, but it will also provide you with a thorough understanding of how to evidence these skills when seeking a new post or applying for a promotion.

For further information on the campus visit http://stir.ac.uk/9w
Programme overview

Timetable:
- The PhD can be taken either full-time, 3-4 years; or part-time, 5-8 years.

Modules (20 credits unless stated otherwise)
- **Autumn semester**
  Core modules: Research Design in TESOL, Quantitative Data Analysis
  Optional modules: The Nature of Educational Enquiry, Grammar for TESOL, or Introduction to CALL.
- **Spring semester**
  Core modules: Approaches in Discourse Analysis, Qualitative Data Analysis
  Optional modules: Theory & Methods of Digital Social Research, Corpora in English Language Research and Teaching, or Sociolinguistics and Varieties of English.
- **Summer semester (full time) or Year 3 (part time)**
  Core module: TESOL Research Practice (60 credits)
- **From Year 2 (full time) or Year 4 (part time)**
  Core module: Thesis of 60,000 words (360 credits)

Delivery, structure and assessment

Taught modules are delivered on a face-to-face and blended basis using a variety of delivery methods: lectures, workshops and student presentations. The modules in your first year of full-time study (or first three years of part-time study) are delivered in a concentrated way (mostly on Fridays), providing you with the time you need for reading and conducting your research.

Assessment methods vary depending on each module’s learning outcomes. Each 20-credit module will involve the production of a 3,000-word essay. The final assignment for the PhD in TESOL Research is the production of original research to be reported in a 60,000-word thesis.

Key teaching staff

The programme is taught by experienced researchers who have extensive connections in the field of TESOL, including publishers and governmental organizations such as the British Council. You will have a chance to network with a range of other key players in the field who are invited to deliver workshops and seminars in our ELTR (English Language Teaching and Research) event series.

University courses, services and procedures are continually reviewed, enhanced and revised, and this may result in some changes between the time of publication and the date when the student enters the University. Where any changes will affect an applicant, the University will keep the applicant fully informed.
Five reasons why you should choose a PhD in TESOL Research at Stirling

1. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, our Educational research had the highest quality of research outputs of any Scottish university, with 100% of its research outputs activity rated either world-leading or internationally excellent.

2. You will make an original contribution to scholarship and will be awarded the title of PhD in TESOL Research, a unique qualification that highlights your thorough knowledge in this area.

3. You will be affiliated with Education within the School of Social Sciences, an excitingly vibrant academic division, which is consistently ranked within the top 10 in the UK across all ranking tables.

4. Because of the distinctive design of this PhD programme, you will be supported in your knowledge/research development process from the very start of your studies.

5. You will benefit from a flexible programme delivered intensively (mostly on Fridays), allowing you to read and research extensively.
Entrance requirements

Normally, a minimum of a Master's degree in TESOL, (Applied) Linguistics, Languages or cognate subject (60% average or above) from a university in the United Kingdom (UK) or elsewhere (provided that the degree levels are comparable those in the UK).

We also welcome enquiries from you if you do not have this formal qualification but have relevant research experience through your professional practice. In this case, you will be asked to undertake a task to demonstrate your research skills.

Irrespective of your academic background, you are expected to have excellent language and numeracy skills and a willingness to engage in depth and breadth with the research field in TESOL.

Tuition fees and funding

Tuition fees for the PhD in TESOL research are payable for a maximum of four years by full-time students and eight years by part-time students. Fees are payable annually and may also increase annually.

For more information about tuition fees and payment through instalments, please go to www.stir.ac.uk/postgraduate/financial-information/tuition-fees

Funded opportunities at Stirling can be found on our Scholarships Finder: www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships

Please note there is an additional charge for the conferral of your degree. This will be charged at the rate applicable when you complete your studies.

Language requirements

If English is not your first language, you should usually have one of the following minimum qualifications as evidence of your English language skills:

- IELTS: 7.0 with at least 6.5 in each of the skills
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Grade B
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): Grade A
- Pearson Test of English (Academic): 67 with a minimum of 60 in each of the four skills
- IBT TOEFL: 100 with a minimum of 20 in each of the four skills

For more information, go to www.stir.ac.uk/study-in-the-uk/entry-requirements/english/

Contact information

Dr Vander Viana, Programme Director

Telephone: UK +44 (0) 1786 467934
Email: tesol@stir.ac.uk

http://stir.ac.uk/18b

Join our community

Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, visit www.marketingtools.stir.ac.uk/photographylist.php

This publication can be made available in different formats. Please contact Student Recruitment and Admissions for further information: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

The University of Stirling is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC 011159.