# Programme Specification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme award and title:</th>
<th>Master of Letters in English Language and Linguistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCQF Level:</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCQF Credit Value:</td>
<td>180</td>
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**Educational aims of the programme:**
Concise (e.g. a few sentences), general statement of aims and broad purposes of the programme

- This programme offers students the opportunity to study the intricate workings of language and explore its central role in human society. It is centred around the study of the English language, investigating both theoretical approaches to linguistics and their application in a broader cultural context, through a foundational course in the structures of language, complemented by advanced specialist courses allowing students to explore a wide range of detailed topics according to their own interests.

**Intended programme learning outcomes:**
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) of what the student will know, understand and be able to do as a result of their learning, expressed in the categories below. Please consider the contribution made to the student's personal development planning (PDP) and future employability.

**Knowledge and understanding**
- knowledge of contemporary linguistic theories, including both generative and cognitive approaches to linguistic description, and the contexts in which these theories arose;
- knowledge and understanding in specialist selected areas of study (e.g. Old and Middle English, historical, social and regional varieties of English, language and cognition, discourse analysis and evolutionary linguistics), including critical understanding of research in these areas.

**Subject-specific skills and other attributes**
- application of a variety of descriptive linguistic tools to language data;
- application of linguistic theories to selected specialist areas of study within English Language and Linguistics, according to the student's areas of interest;

**Generic skills (e.g. information skills, communication skills, critical, analytical and problem solving abilities) and other attributes**
- planning and managing a research project under supervision;
- the ability to undertake independent research, including keeping track of relevant developments in the chosen field(s), and being able to set them in appropriate context;
- structuring and communicating ideas effectively;
- gathering, evaluating and organising information from multiple sources;
- formulating concise and clear descriptions of findings;
- engaging with other researchers by writing and debating relevant topics in an informed and insightful way;
- delivering oral and written presentations confidently and professionally to different audiences.

**Learning, teaching and assessment strategies:**
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) on overall approach taken to develop and assess learning outcomes, including any distinctive features

- Teaching will be delivered through a combination of lectures and small group seminars, including student-led discussion of key papers in the specialist modules. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own studies, and a key aim of the learning and teaching strategy is to develop their ability to become experts in their chosen field.
- The core module provides a thorough grounding in the structures of language and how language
works; this is complemented by optional modules which serve to advance the knowledge, understanding and skills introduced in the core module through their application in specialist areas.

- The programme will be assessed through module coursework (primarily essays, though with some descriptive analysis of linguistic data) and the dissertation, which will enable students to demonstrate their original research on a significant, sustained piece of work on a subject chosen by the student in consultation with a member of the department.

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<th>Professional/statutory body accreditation or recognition</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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### Further details:

- Entry requirements: [http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/postgrad/index.php](http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/postgrad/index.php)
- Programme structure: [http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/](http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/)
- Relevant Subject Benchmark statement (if applicable): [http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp)
- Introduction/revision date: December 2010