

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



REDEFINE

WITH
RESEARCH

PHD TESOL RESEARCH

REDEFINE AT STIRLING

WHY A PhD IN TESOL RESEARCH?

The PhD in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Research is a unique course, offered at the University of Stirling.

If you are passionate about investigating language use, teaching and learning, this course 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. The course will develop your research skills to a professional level and support your learning through seven modules. During your time at the University of Stirling, your learning will be facilitated by tutors who have extensive expertise in TESOL, research methods and educational theories.

IS A PhD IN TESOL RESEARCH FOR ME?

This course will appeal to you if you wish to develop your research skills and become an autonomous researcher. Our PhD in TESOL Research will provide you with an opportunity to go beyond what would be required from a Masters of Research (MRes) and an Educational Doctorate (EdD) in that you will produce a more substantial 60,000-word thesis.

The course 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 courses currently on offer in the UK.

The PhD in TESOL Research qualification will identify you 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, whilst also enjoying the PhD experience. The academic environment at the University of Stirling will not only give you freedom and challenges, but it will also provide you with the opportunity 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:
stir.ac.uk/18b

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 high-quality systematic research in TESOL. Your PhD in TESOL Research will equip you with the skills necessary to produce research at the forefront of our discipline. The PhD degree will open up a wide range of 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 first-class services offered by the Careers and Employability Service, which you can benefit from even after you graduate.

Within TESOL, we also provide a tailored workshop series entitled “My career in TESOL” aimed at developing your awareness of continuing professional development (CPD), your knowledge of job market requirements and your confidence in applying for jobs.

Your time as a PhD student at the University of Stirling will not only 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.



You can find out more about funding opportunities at:
stir.ac.uk/scholarships

“

The PhD in TESOL Research is an exciting new way to achieve a PhD. We believe this innovative course will be welcomed by students who want support with research methods and design, but who also want to achieve a PhD qualification.

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FIONA COPLAND
TESOL Professor



FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1

Our Educational research had the highest quality of research outputs of any Scottish university, with **100% of its research activity rated either world-leading or internationally excellent** (REF 2014).

2

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

3

Education at the University of Stirling is **ranked 1st in Scotland and top 10 in the UK** (The Guardian University Guide 2019).

4

As a result of the distinctive design of this PhD course, you will be **supported in your knowledge and research development** from the very start of your studies.

5

You will benefit from a **flexible course** delivered intensively (mostly on Fridays), allowing you maximum time to read and research.

COURSE OVERVIEW

TIMETABLE

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

Modules

Semester 1

Core modules: Research Design in TESOL, Quantitative Data Analysis.

Optional modules: The Nature of Educational Enquiry, Grammar for TESOL, or Introduction to CALL.

Semester 2

Core modules: Approaches in Discourse Analysis, Qualitative Data Analysis.

Optional modules: Theory and Methods of Digital Social Research, Corpora in English Language Research and Teaching, or Sociolinguistics and Varieties of English.

Summer (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, providing you with the time you need for reading and conducting research.

Assessment methods vary depending on the learning outcomes and each 20-credit module will comprise 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 TESOL unit within Education Studies includes a number of internationally renowned academics such as Professors Adrian Blackledge, Angela Creese, and Fiona Copland. Prof Copland is the Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Social Sciences and combines teaching experience with research expertise, having worked in several countries (e.g. Nigeria, Hong Kong, Japan and the UK). Her research interests include language teaching pedagogy and the feedback given to trainee teachers.

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.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be considered for admission to the PhD in TESOL Research, you must have a minimum of a Masters degree in TESOL, (Applied) Linguistics, Languages or cognate subject from a university in the United Kingdom (UK) or comparable institution.

We also welcome enquiries if you do not have this formal qualification but instead 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 with the research field in TESOL

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

If English is not your first language, you should have one of the following 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: stir.ac.uk/1ae

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 installments, please go to: stir.ac.uk/1ah

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Course Director: Dr Vander Viana
Telephone: UK +44 (0) 1786 467951
Email: tesol@stir.ac.uk

stir.ac.uk/18b



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Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact: marketingtools@stir.ac.uk

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