

Contact us

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"I came to Lancaster after a few years in the working world. Though the work was challenging, I was provided with all of the resources, instruction, and support I needed to excel."

Melissa Crimmins, MA in Discourse Studies



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Department of Linguistics and English Language

Discourse Studies MA



The MA Discourse Studies is an innovative programme specifically designed to give you the competence to undertake empirical work in discourse studies by drawing on both linguistic and social theory.

Discourse Studies

The MA Discourse Studies enables you to explore discourse in areas such as politics, law, business, media and health, whilst developing skills in a range of analytical methods. Support for your studies is provided by the non-credit Postgraduate Academic Study Skills module which runs in terms 1, 2 and 3.

Core Modules

Four core modules cover areas considered essential to your Discourse Studies MA.

- Introduction to Discourse Studies (20 credits) (Term 1)
- Pragmatics (20 credits) (Term 1)
- Critical Discourse Analysis (20 Credits) (Term 2)
- Research Methods in Linguistics and English Language (20 credits) (Terms 1 & 2)

Two modules can be freely chosen. One from each term, or two 10 credit modules

Term 1

- Cognitive Linguistics (20 credits)
- Corpus Linguistics (20 credits)
- English Grammar: A Cognitive Approach (20 credits)
- Language, Literacies and Digital Communication (20 credits)
- Principles of Language Teaching (20 credits)
- Second Language Acquisition (20 credits)
- Sociolinguistics (20 credits)
- Teaching Languages to Students with Specific Learning Differences (10 credits)
- Using Corpora in Language Teaching (10 credits)

Term 2

- Bilingualism (20 credits)
- Content Based Approaches to Language Education (10 credits)
- Curriculum Design in Language Education (10 credits)
- Experimental Approaches to Language and Cognition (20 credits)
- Forensic Linguistics (20 credits)
- Language Test Construction and Evaluation (20 credits)
- Sociophonetics (20 credits)
- Stylistics (20 credits)

You can also audit one module per term (that is, actively attend the module but not submit the work for assessment). Support for your studies is provided by the non-credit Postgraduate Academic Study Skills module which runs in terms 1, 2 and 3.



Entry requirements

We welcome applications from those who have an upper second class honours degree, or its equivalent, in a relevant subject area.

IELTS: 6.5 (with at least 6.0 in listening and speaking and at least 6.5 in reading and writing) or equivalent.

Fees

	Full Time (per year)	Part Time (per year)
UK/EU	£7,250	£3,625
Overseas	£15,500	n/a

For new students entering in 2017-18 we guarantee that your taught course tuition fees will not rise by more than 4% per annum over the standard time required to complete your scheme of study.

This information is taken from the 2016-2017 academic year guidebook – changes may be made for future studies.

Key information

Deadline for Applications: 31st July

We are one of the largest Linguistics departments in the UK

Linguistics at Lancaster is consistently ranked in the top 10 in the UK

Top 20 in the world for five years in a row

5th for graduate employability

Access to excellent learning resources including specialised labs for teaching and research

Vibrant research community, organised around a number of research centres and groups

Independent Study Units

In addition to the courses listed above, in term 2 we also offer Independent Study Units (ISUs). You have the option to replace your third credit-bearing course with an ISU. ISUs offer a period of directed, but independent reading in an area you choose.

The focus should be on key methodological and theoretical aspects of the chosen field. If you are interested in taking an ISU, please select a topic and approach a tutor. If you take an ISU, you will have to write an essay of the same type as those on taught courses. You can only take an ISU if you achieve no less than an average of 60 in your first three pieces of coursework, with no mark below 55.

Writing your dissertation

Your dissertation will offer an opportunity to specialise in a specific area of (critical) discourse analysis. Your dissertation will be worth 60 credits and will be up to 12,500 words in length.

Occasionally, students choose to write a longer dissertation, worth 120 credits (20,000-25,000 words). This opportunity is not available from the very start of the programme: it is a variant that you may discuss opting for if you demonstrate satisfactory performance in the first part of the programme, studying the compulsory courses.

Very exceptionally students apply to take an MA in Discourse Studies by research worth 180 credits (40,000-50,000 words). In order to qualify for this option, you will need (a) a first class degree or very high 2i, and (b) prior research experience and aptitude in discourse analysis (verified by a supporting reference). If you have been accepted onto this route, you would still attend the Research Methods module, and would be encouraged to audit up to 3 other courses.

Study support

Our Postgraduate Academic Study Skills module provides you with English for Academic Purposes and Study Skills support during your studies, and the Research Methods in Linguistics and English Language module introduces you to the research skills needed for your assignments and dissertation.

You are also assigned to an Academic Advisor who helps you settle in and keeps an eye on your progress throughout the year. And if you don't already meet our English language entry requirements, it is possible to take our pre-sessional EAP programme instead.

Melissa Crimmins

MA in Discourse Studies

Year of Study: 2013/14



I came to Lancaster after a few years in the working world. Though the work was challenging, I was provided with all of the resources, instruction, and support I needed to excel. I have had one of the most satisfying and rewarding years of my life as a masters student at Lancaster.

Because of the breadth of training I received, I feel well-rounded and able to tackle various issues within linguistics; because of the friends I made in my cohort, I feel a sense of camaraderie in the accomplishment of my degree; because of the high quality and corresponding reputation of the work produced in this department, I feel confident going forward.

If you're looking for a positive environment where you will be pushed to achieve your best but supported all the way, you couldn't do better than to choose Lancaster.

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Melissa Crimmins
MA in Discourse
Studies 2013

"I am so grateful for the constant instruction, help and valuable comments I received from my dissertation supervisor in particular."

Charis Yang Zhang
MA in Discourse
Studies 2013