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NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/english-linguistics> , (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Institution / Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	School of English
Interim Awards and Final Award:	Diploma/MA in English Linguistics
Programme Title:	Diploma/MA in English Linguistics
Main fields of Study:	<i>Linguistic analysis of the English language</i>
Modes of Study:	Distance
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	n/a
JACS Code:	

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

Although no QAA benchmarks in this subject area were extant as of March 2010, this programme can be seen to belong to the Specialised/Advanced Study type of Masters envisaged by QAA. Successful students obtain 'an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the discipline informed by current scholarship and research, including a critical awareness of current issues'.

The MA offers predominantly structured learning opportunities, though with a thoroughgoing emphasis on independent learning via the distance mode format, through which students display initiative and take responsibility for their progress in the discipline.

Programme aims

Explain the overall approach adopted by the programme and how it leads to the aims shown below

The MA in English Linguistics has the following aims:

To provide students with a well structured knowledge base in the field of descriptive English linguistics, incorporating both synchronic and diachronic aspects of language study, with an emphasis on the applied nature of linguistics.

To provide students with analytic skills in language necessary for teaching and assessing pupils' performance in and understanding of the English language and also of relevance to a range of other employment contexts;

To enable students to reflect critically on relevant issues in the study of language, and of the English language in particular.

To prepare students for undertaking small scale research projects in the field of English linguistics.

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes¹

1. To equip students with analytic tools for the descriptive study of English language
2. To enable students to carry out a critical discussion of approaches to the study of English language
3. To enable students to design, implement and discuss critically a piece of linguistic research of their own into the English language

¹ Guidance on the specification of learning outcomes is available from the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

All teaching and assessment takes place in distance mode.

Individual module handbooks guide the student through relevant topics in conjunction with recommended reading. They include many exercises, which encourage the students to reflect on and interact with the knowledge they are acquiring. Students may contact the module tutor at any point for support during their learning experience, using post, email or telephone as appropriate.

Assessment takes the form of essays, text analyses, and a final dissertation.

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

<i>Award</i>	<i>Module title</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Credit value</i>
Certificate (75 credits)	<i>Language description</i>	6	15
	<i>Language and Social variation</i>	7	30
	Option 1	7	30
Diploma (120 credits)	Option 2	7	30
	<i>Data, Theory and Method</i>	7	15
MA	<i>Dissertation</i>	7	60

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

External examiner's report: responses to issues raised are addressed as appropriate

Student feedback at Board of Studies: action points are followed where improvements are agreed to be desirable