

*Presentation pattern*    October to September

*Module description*

The dissertation builds on students' previous learning from the MAED (Applied Linguistics pathway) Stages 1 and 2 by extending their repertoire of skills in empirical research design. The module not only provides insights into the nature of applied linguistics research within educational contexts, methodological approaches, ethics and researcher-participant relationships, it also provides students with the tools to reflect on their own practice and conceptualisations about research and a research topic of their interest.

The module provides the opportunity to students to carry out a small-scale empirical study in an informal or formal teaching and learning context that contributes to their understanding of, and ways to support and/or develop, the role of language in teaching and learning. The topic for the students' research study is chosen in consultation with their tutor, and must be within the practical scope of the MAED degree programme.

On completion, students will be equipped with a qualification which is increasingly required for entry to and promotion in various language-related professions, as well as being in a position to progress with their post-graduate studies (EdD/PhD programmes).

*Person specification*

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the [generic person specification](#) for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- a masters degree or higher in applied linguistics or language and education or a related field
- a good understanding of social approaches to language, learning and teaching, which might include language description, systemic functional linguistics, corpus linguistics, sociocultural approaches and ethnography
- experience of analysing language in different contexts
- some working knowledge of current practice in language education in one or more of the following areas: Language and literacy studies, modern languages, English as a second language (ESL), English for academic purposes (EAP), EAL (English as an additional language), English as a foreign language (EFL), English as a medium of teaching and learning
- a proven ability to tutor students from a wide range of cultural and language backgrounds, a proportion of whom will not have English as their first language, and to develop students' academic literacy and foster good academic practices
- a high level of computing expertise, including a knowledge of how technology is used in language, teaching and learning contexts and the ability to tutor online using a range of online tools
- an ability to use both asynchronous and synchronous platforms in online tutoring

It would be an advantage to have:

- a doctoral degree in applied linguistics, language and education or a related field

- recent experience of teaching in a higher education institution
- experience in teaching online and at a distance
- experience of conducting applied linguistics or educational research

*Additional information*

- this module is available for study throughout the world. It is tutored entirely online using online forums
- one of your main roles will be to supervise students in planning and carrying out their own small-scale research projects
- other tasks will include marking assignments and moderating tutor-group forums, encouraging students to participate, collaborate, and maintain a good working environment

*Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website*

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	60
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	2
Method of submission for assignments:	2
Level of ICT requirements:	3
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	12
Salary band:	7
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	4