



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from The University of Sheffield

### Programme Details

1. Programme title	Translation Studies
2. Programme code	MDLT35
3. QAA FHEQ level	Postgraduate
4. Faculty	Arts and Humanities
5. Department	School of Languages and Cultures
6. Other departments providing credit bearing modules for the programme	iSchool
7. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	European Masters in Translation (EMT) <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/european-masters-translation-emt_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/european-masters-translation-emt_en</a>
8. Date of production/revision	September 2020, Revised March 2021

Awards	Type of award	Duration
9. Final award	MA	1 year Full-time, 2 years Part-time
10. Intermediate awards	PG Dip	
	PG Cert	

### Programme Codes

11. JACS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the <a href="#">HESA website</a>.</i>	Q910	Q920	Q990
12. HECoS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the <a href="#">HECoS vocabulary</a>.</i>	101130	101130	100328

### Programme Delivery

13. Mode of study	Full-time; Part Time
14. Mode of delivery	On Campus; may include Blended Learning

## 15. Background to the programme and subject area

Translation Studies is a discipline which has witnessed unparalleled changes over the course of the last ten years. One reason for this is the fact that the world market in translation, already thought to be worth in excess of 10 billion pounds a year, barely satisfies a fraction of the demand created by a global economy. New technologies are rapidly transforming the profession and it is becoming essential for translators to be familiar with translation and localisation software (such as Trados Studio). Another equally valid reason is that Translation Studies has pioneered a number of key ideas and concepts, which have proved to be invaluable with regard to the study of cultural exchange in areas as diverse as social sciences, science, literature, drama, history, media, law, comparative religion and philosophy. The MA programme offered at Sheffield was launched in September 1996 and has been designed and reviewed to open new avenues of thought while providing a firm foundation in the discipline of Translation Studies. As it combines the underlying theoretical issues involved in literary, technical, screen, legal, scientific and commercial translation, publishing, localisation and management with the practical aspects of the translation process, the programme is of interest to all graduate linguists whatever their future career route: commercial, legal, scientific or technical translation; literary or screen translation; localisation, research, teaching or management.

Past and present students represent a very wide range of ages, nationalities and professional backgrounds, including students wanting to specialise in Translation Studies and practising translators interested in acquiring fresh skills. The programme caters for a wide range of students who wish to acquire a critical understanding of contemporary issues in translation alongside the practical and technical skills required in today's fast evolving translation industry. Versatility and employability are thus enhanced. Recent graduates have found work as freelance translators for the EU, the Olympic Committee, the Ministry of Defence, the UN and Amazon whilst others work as research assistants in other Universities.

## 16. Programme aims

The Diploma and MA in Translation Studies aim to:

<b>A1</b>	Provide quality teaching that is informed and invigorated by the scholarship of its staff, alert to the benefits of student-centred learning and which fosters inclusivity in both programme content and participation.
<b>A2</b>	Offer students a post-graduate programme that maximises opportunities for undertaking study which is at the forefront of the discipline, while closely relating it to work-based experience.
<b>A3</b>	Develop students' awareness of the requirements of the translation profession and current challenges in the field of translating.
<b>A4</b>	Provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to work in the wide-ranging contemporary translation contexts.
<b>A5</b>	Develop in students an independence of thought, intellectual curiosity and a critical approach to evidence, theories, concepts and practice.
<b>A6</b>	Offer through choice of optional modules the opportunity to develop expertise in the application of translation studies to either a) language and information- related web content management b) audio-visual media contexts and practices.

## 17. Programme learning outcomes

<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>		
On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:		
		<b>Links to Aim(s)</b>
<b>K1</b>	Advanced understanding of key theoretical approaches and issues in Translation Studies and an ability to assess their relevance to translation.	A1, A2, A5
<b>K2</b>	Knowledge of advanced translation approaches and strategies relating to a range of genres in at least one language pair.	A2, A3

<b>K3</b>	Knowledge of and familiarity with various software packages, technologies and electronic resources used in the wider translation industry.	A1, A3, A4
<b>K4</b>	Critical awareness of historical and societal influences affecting Translation Studies and practices and their capacities for influencing outcomes.	A1, A2
<b>K5</b>	<b>(MA Only)</b> Original ideas and insights arising from independent research in relation to one of the areas studied, including critical awareness of their applicability to Translation Studies.	A1, A5
<b>K6</b>	(depending on optional modules chosen) develop expertise in the processes of a) digital information management or b) audio-visual media development/translation.	A6
<b>Skills and other attributes</b>		
On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:		
<b>S1</b>	Acquire, use and critically evaluate texts and translated texts from a variety of sources, including research publications, newspapers, broadcasts, multimedia information, websites, teachers, native speakers.	A1, A2
<b>S2</b>	Effective skills in oral and written communication in more than one language to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, independently and in collaboration with others.	A3, A4
<b>S3</b>	Computer and IT skills required for the handling of textual and graphical information including internet searches and a variety of appropriate software packages, including translation software relevant to the translation process.	A3, A4
<b>S4</b>	Key transferable life-long learning skills such as peer observation, reflective practice, co-operative work, time management, and presentational skills, all of which will be of use in a variety of professions.	A1-5
<b>S5</b>	<b>(MA Only)</b> The abilities and skills to develop and complete a research dissertation independently with supervision as required.	A5
<b>S6</b>	(depending on optional modules chosen) carry out specialist work on the processes of digital information management or audio-visual media development/translation.	A6

## 18. Learning and teaching methods

**Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:**

**Lectures** fulfil a variety of different teaching roles, including the provision of basic information, the presentation of specific problems and methods of resolution, the stimulation of debate, and the encouragement to study further (K1 – K6, S1 – S3). Multimedia resources are used in lectures and student participation is strongly encouraged.

**Seminars and Workshops** are an important part of the core modules and the practical translation modules and are designed to help develop collaborative, problem-solving and interpersonal skills. Small empirical research projects are carried out (most commonly during semester 2) in order to foster group and team-working skills (K1, K2, S1, S2, S4, S6).

**Dissertation work** under the supervision of academic staff allows students to develop and practise research knowledge and skills (K1, K2, S1, S2, S4, S5).

**Independent study** is a crucial element of the programme and encourages the development of all aspects of knowledge, understanding and skills, but in particular it encourages qualities of originality, independence, information collection and management and allows students to pursue an approved area of their own choice in depth. It is essential to the successful completion of the programme (S4, S5).

Where appropriate (and particularly in the light of the experiences learnt from COVID-19), modes of delivery may include elements of online or blended learning.

**Consultations** on a one-to-one or small group basis with teaching staff are central to modules in reflective

practice, directed reading, and an essential complement to other learning and teaching methods, providing an opportunity for students to discuss in greater depth issues that arise in seminars and in the course of independent learning or in preparation of the dissertation (K1, S1, S4).

## 19. Assessment and feedback methods

**Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:**

A variety of assessment methods are used, involving both summative and formative assessment (some elements of coursework may fall into both categories).

Summative assessment is carried out in a variety of ways, including the following, and appropriate combinations of the following:

- Written examinations, including 'open-book' examinations involving annotated translation;
- Essay and report/proposal writing;
- Practical translations;
- Technology projects using translation and localisation software;
- Project work (group and individual);
- Dissertation.

Regular formative assessment, in the form of translation of texts and written assignments, is used to monitor and provide feedback on progression or areas of potential weakness (K1-K3). Summative assessment, in the form of essays, oral presentations, technological projects, translated texts, examinations and a dissertation, tests the ability to demonstrate subject knowledge (K1-5) and the development and refinement of key skills (S1-S6). The dissertation and the theoretical assignments provide demonstration of detailed subject knowledge, independent learning, and the application of key skills (S2, S5, S6).

These methods are judged against the Department's marking criteria and those of other participating departments. Written submissions are expected to be well written and presented (S2), in accordance with the advice given in the Department's Student Information and by individual module tutors. Essays are used to test the students' acquisition of knowledge and key skills across the range (K1-K5, S1-S5). Annotated translations test both practical translation skills and students' understanding of and ability to reflect on the translation process (K1, K5 S1-S3).

The advanced knowledge and skills outlined under K5 and S5 are assessed through a dissertation. The dissertation allows for the demonstration of detailed theoretical subject knowledge, independent learning, and the application of key skills including critical awareness.

Students will receive both formative and summative feedback along the course of their programme. Formative feedback will be provided in a variety of methods, such as periodic tests or exercises, which may be self-, peer- or tutor-assessed, or a combination of these, before students are required to complete summative assessment. These are designed to reinforce knowledge and skills, and to monitor carefully the students' progression.

Formative feedback is also used to provide timely and developmental feedback for students and to familiarise themselves with the Sheffield approach to assessment at an early stage. This is undertaken through activities such as running seminars, group and individual presentations, written work and a range of analytical pieces.

Feedback is designed and developed following the Sheffield principles

(<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/apse/apo/quality/assessment/feedback>)

## 20. Programme structure and student development

The full-time programme is offered over 12 months starting in late September each year, and finishing the following September. The part-time programme also starts in late September each year and normally takes 2 years to complete.

The programme is modular in format. In order to be awarded the degree of MA students must accumulate a total of 180 credits. The programme has a unified core structure with five core modules, options and a dissertation. Students may wish to specialise in one or more languages and relate this to the specialism of their first degree. Students may also wish to pursue a PhD after the award.

Credits are accumulated over 12 months (full-time study) or 24 months (part-time study). In the case of full-time students, the normal expectation is that 60 credits will be taken in each Semester thus ensuring a balanced workload throughout the year. In some cases, however, student choice, and the availability of modules in a given year, may produce some slight variation in this pattern. In the case of part-time students, the normal

expectation is that 90 credits will be taken in each year of study, divided as evenly as possible (subject to student choice and module availability) between Semesters. The MA in Translation Studies is designed for both those with recent undergraduate qualifications, and those with some years of experience (which may be in the translation industry); the structure of the programme caters for this range of students as follows:

- Core modules to the value of 75 credits (Concepts and Approaches in Translation Studies, Research Methods in Modern Languages and Cultures, Translation Technologies and Translation Skills and Genres over the course of the AUT and SPR semesters.
- Approved/Option modules to the value of 45 credits, of relevance to their academic and professional background, experience and interest; these may be in either the Autumn or Spring semesters, depending on the modules chosen. Students will be invited to take 45 credits of optional modules to be chosen from a broad range, allowing students to pursue routes of their choice through the programme or to opt for a specialist focus in digital Information or audio-visual media to the value of 45 credits.
- Dissertation Support classes, normally taken in the Spring Semester, alongside Dissertation, worth 60 credits, normally undertaken in the Spring Semester.

The period between the end of the Spring Semester and the end of the period of registration is devoted to the dissertation.

The core and approved modules are normally worth either 15 or 30 credits each, with a 60 credit dissertation, and are designed on the basis of approximately 10 hours of work per credit (including contact hours, private study and assessment) in order to ensure an appropriate and uniform workload. Students aiming for a Master's degree must register for modules to the value of 180 credits. The Diploma in Translation Studies is awarded for successful completion of non-dissertation modules to the value of 120 credits and the Certificate to the value of 60 credits.

Following the UK QAA Quality Frameworks, in some modules graduate students are taught alongside undergraduates, most commonly in language modules. However, these modules are 'enhanced' for graduate students principally by the use of modes of assessment which address the learning outcomes specific to this Masters programme, requiring more intensive and extensive study, and a greater degree of independent research. Where appropriate additional classes for graduate students only are also arranged.

Successful completion of the programme leads to the award of the Master's Degree, either with a 'Pass' "Merit" or 'Pass with distinction' grade. Students who do not proceed to the dissertation but who successfully complete the taught component of the programme (120 credits) are eligible for the award of Post Graduate Diploma in MA in Translation Studies or Certificate in MA in Translation Studies (60 credits).

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available online at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/>.

## **21. Criteria for admission to the programme**

Detailed information regarding admission to programmes is available from the University's On-Line Prospectus at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/courses/>.

Students will normally have attained an upper second class honours (or equivalent), or higher, in a relevant subject, such as language, linguistics and literature. Students should have an excellent knowledge of written and spoken English and one of the languages offered.

Those applicants who do not have English as a mother tongue need to have an IELTS score of 7.0 (with 6.5 in each component).

## 22. Reference points

**The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:**

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

Subject Benchmark Statements (2019)

[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-languages-cultures-and-societies.pdf?sfvrsn=4ce2cb81\\_4](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-languages-cultures-and-societies.pdf?sfvrsn=4ce2cb81_4)

Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (2018) (2019)

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

QAA Characteristics statement for Masters' degrees (February 2020)

[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement8019abbe03dc611ba4caff140043ed24.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81\\_12](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement8019abbe03dc611ba4caff140043ed24.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81_12)

University Strategic Plan

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/strategicplan>

Learning and Teaching Strategy (2016-21)

[https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly\\_fs/1.661828!/file/FinalStrategy.pdf](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.661828!/file/FinalStrategy.pdf)

The research interests of departmental staff and the Development Plan of the School of Languages and Cultures.

## 23. Additional information

This programme specification represents a significant amendment to previous versions of the programme; the underlying aims and outcomes remain the same as earlier versions, but have been consolidated and developed to reflect contemporary trends.

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid>.