



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	LAST013
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) https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/european-masters-translation-emt_en
8. Date of production/revision	August 2020, March 2026

Awards	Type of award	Duration
9. Final award	PG Diploma in Translation Studies	1 or 2 years
10. Intermediate awards	PG Certificate in Translation Studies	1 or 2 years

Programme Codes

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

Programme Delivery

13. Mode of study	Full-time or Part-time
14. Mode of delivery	Face to face (on campus), but may include an element of Blended Learning

15. Background to the programme and subject area

Translation Studies is a discipline which has witnessed unparalleled changes in recent 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. 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 in Translation Studies offered by the School of Languages and Cultures 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. The programme 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 Postgraduate Diploma in Translation Studies is of interest to all graduate linguists who wish to undertake higher-level work and obtain a specialist qualification, and who will focus on an aspect of Translation Studies to enhance their current and/or future career route: commercial, legal, scientific or technical translation; literary or screen translation; localisation, research, teaching or management.

The proposed 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.

16. Programme aims

PG Diploma in Translation Studies aims to:	
A1	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;
A2	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;
A3	To develop students' awareness of the requirements of the translation profession and current challenges in the field of translating;
A4	To provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to work in the wide-ranging contemporary translation contexts;
A5	To develop in students an independence of thought, intellectual curiosity and a critical approach to evidence, theories and concepts.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		
On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:		
		Links to Aim(s)
K1	Advanced understanding of key theoretical approaches and issues in Translation Studies and an ability to assess their relevance to translation;	A1, A3
K2	Knowledge of advanced translation approaches and strategies relating to a range of genres in at least one language pair, including understanding of theoretical and practical approaches to annotated translation;	A1-A3
K3	Knowledge of and familiarity with various software packages, technologies and electronic resources used in the wider translation industry;	A2, A4
K4	Critical awareness of historical and societal influences affecting Translation Studies and practices and their capacities for influencing outcomes.	A1-3, A5
Skills and other attributes		
On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:		
S1	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, A3-A5
S2	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;	A1-A5
S3	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;	A2, A4
S4	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, A4, A5

18. Learning and teaching methods

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods, and will depend on the chosen modules:

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 – K4, 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, S4).

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).

Consultations on a one-to-one 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).

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 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)

Students in the Postgraduate Diploma in Translation Studies 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

Students register specifically for the Postgraduate Diploma at the outset of their studies. In the interests of flexibility, however, movement between the Postgraduate Diploma and the Masters is normally permitted where students are demonstrably suited to the change of programme and able to meet the relevant criteria for admission and successful completion.

The programme is modular in format. The programme has a unified core structure with three core modules, and options. Students may wish to specialise in one or more languages and relate this to the specialism of their first degree. To achieve the award of Postgraduate Diploma, students must accumulate a total of 120 credits (not including the Dissertation module), by successfully completing a combination of modules each worth 15 or 30 credits. These credits can be completed over 12 months (full-time study) or 24 months (part-time study). To ensure a balanced workload over the year, full-time students are normally expected to take 60 credits in each semester, although 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 60 credits will be taken in each year of study, divided as evenly as possible (subject to student choice and module availability between semesters).

The Postgraduate Diploma is structured around a Research Methods core module which enables students to deepen their knowledge of key methodologies within and (where necessary for their work) outside of their disciplines.

Credits are accumulated as follows:

- Core modules to the value of 75 credits (Concepts and Approaches in Translation Studies, Research Methods in Languages and Cultures, Translation Technologies and Advanced Translation of a Language) 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 choose a specialist pathway (such as Digital Information or Audio-Visual Media) for 30 of these credits, or to pursue routes of their choice through the programme.

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 a minimum 2:2 Honours degree (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:

Subject Benchmark Statements

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)

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

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

23. Additional information

Our aim is to make the content of our already prestigious MA in Translation Studies accessible to people who would like to acquire specific skills in the field of translation.

The programme will be promoted alongside the current arrangements for advertising PGT courses, nestled within the MA in Translation Studies.

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>.