



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	Modern Languages and Cultures
2. Programme code	LAST017
3. QAA FHEQ level	Postgraduate
4. Faculty	Arts and Humanities
5. School	Languages, Arts and Societies
6. Other Schools providing credit bearing modules for the programme	Not applicable
7. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
8. Date of production/revision	September 2023, March 2026

Awards	Type of award	Duration
9. Final award	Postgraduate Diploma	1 or 2 years
10. Intermediate awards	Postgraduate Certificate	1 or 2 years

Programme Codes

11. JACS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the HESA website.</i>	R000		
12. HECoS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.</i>	100329		

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

The PG DIP in Modern Languages and Cultures offers students who have successfully completed a degree in a relevant area an opportunity to undertake higher-level work and obtain a specialist qualification.

The programme is designed for those students who may wish to undertake higher level study and training, but who do not meet the entry requirements for an MA in Modern Languages and Cultures (a minimum 2:1 or equivalent), or who wish to focus on practical and content modules, but not pursue the award of an MA in Modern Languages and Cultures. This more inclusive recruitment strategy reflects the School of Languages, Arts and Societies' L&T priorities, specifically the development of new PGT programmes to develop ways in which to enhance employability and knowledge exchange. Potential students in the PG DIP in Modern Languages include Modern Languages teachers, translators, or anyone wishing to undertake a CPD course to enhance their employability and existing skills.

This programme is designed to be flexible, structured, and informed by nationally and internationally recognised expertise within the School of Languages, Arts and Societies. Students in this programme will have a background in any area of specialism in Germanic, French, Spanish, Latin American, Catalan, Portuguese, or Russian and Slavonic Studies, or a developing interest in migration and culture in and from the global South; media, literature, language and culture in their historical and contemporary dimensions. The PG DIP in Modern Languages and Cultures sits within the existing framework and resources for the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures, but it does not include the latter's research training modules. Students in the PG DIP in Modern Languages will combine core specialist content and practical modules and generic skills training. Its broad approach and flexible range of options, including Directed Reading, practical translation, or foreign language learning, are designed to develop specific areas of interest to a high level, pursuing either a single or multiple specialism(s).

Finally, with regards to the Faculty and University L&T priorities, the PG DIP in Modern Languages and Cultures maps onto the major themes in teaching and learning. The students in our proposed programme will be self-directed learners who "have the opportunity to develop academically and personally, recognising the multiple environments from which our students come, and the personal characteristics they bring." The programme we propose aims "to inspire our students, challenge them, develop their curiosity and encourage them" so that they become lifelong learners who participate in the engaged learning and enhanced employability ethos as outlined in the Faculty and University L&T priorities. The proposed programme will also open up a new route into PGT education within SLC, thereby contributing to the Faculty and University L&T priorities' aim to explore new modes of study.

16. Programme aims

Postgraduate Diploma in Modern Languages and Cultures aims to:	
A1	To provide high quality teaching at postgraduate levels that reflects the range and vitality of Modern Languages and Cultures.
A2	To provide a stimulating and effective environment for the study of Modern Languages and Cultures.
A3	Drawing on the research expertise and scholarship of staff, to involve students in new thinking and approaches in Modern Languages and Cultures.

A4	To provide an environment that is intellectually challenging but supportive and flexible.
A5	To foster the development of intellectual qualities and cultural skills and other competences that will enable students to benefit fully from these opportunities.
A6	To encourage and prepare students to put their knowledge, understanding and skills to good use on leaving university.
A7	To sustain a culture of study that is stimulating, productive and open, and that promotes the acquisition of intercultural awareness and informed, tolerant and professional attitudes to the languages and cultures studied.
A8	To provide opportunities for high-level work to graduates with a background in Languages and Cultures who wish to work within and across disciplines.
A9	To offer students a programme that is qualitatively different from BA-level study by maximising opportunities for independent enquiry, reflective practice, and work on more challenging material.

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	An understanding of research methods and techniques and their effective application within and (where relevant) outside of Modern Languages and Cultures.	A1, A2, A3
K2	An appropriately critical understanding of relevant primary and secondary sources, advances in the field of study, and the contexts in which study and research take place.	A5, A6
K3	Enhanced intercultural awareness and/or knowledge of the target culture(s) sufficient for their use in the field of study.	A4, A5, A6
K4	A deeper knowledge and understanding of the specialist subject area, developed through independent work and of relevant research methodologies and their application.	A1-A9
K5	Considered their interest and potential in pursuing further research.	A1-A9
Skills and other attributes		
On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate:		
S1	The ability to think independently and critically.	A6, A4, A5
S2	A creative, discerning, open-minded, and self-disciplined approach to study and research.	A6, A4, A5
S3	Effective communication skills.	A6, A4

S4	Key transferable lifelong-learning skills such as setting goals, time management, working collaboratively, negotiation and presentational skills, reflective practice, and IT skills, all of which will be of value in a range of professions.	A1, A2, A3
S5	Higher-level skills in the acquisition, use, and critical evaluation of subject-related information and methodologies.	A1, A2, A3
S6	Further transferable research and learning skills applicable within and beyond Modern Languages and Cultures, including information and data gathering and management, identifying and solving problems, the capacity and confidence to evaluate source material, to construct and sustain logical argument on the basis of this material and present it in a suitable form.	A1-A9

18. Learning and teaching methods

- Lectures/**Seminars**, which may be staff or student led, are used throughout the programme. They provide opportunities for students to work through, discuss and debate, analyse, and respond to information. Lectures/Seminars will contribute to the development of linguistic and subject-specific knowledge (K2, K3) and the development of key skills (S1, S3). They will also foster small-group dialogue and more detailed discussion of discipline-specific material, enhancing knowledge and understanding of the field and contexts of study and research (K2, K3) and developing key critical and analytical skills (S1–S4). The seminars also explore generic aspects of research methods and techniques (K1) and provide opportunities for the acquisition and practice of core skills (S4, S6).
- **Independent study** is a crucial element of the MA. It encourages the development of intellectual autonomy, reflective reasoning, self-discipline, and information acquisition and management skills (K4-K6, S1, S2, S4).
- Face-to-face and digital learning (in the form of VLEs, recorded lectures, for example) will contribute to the overall quality of the student experience where relevant.

19. Assessment and feedback methods

All students will encounter some of the following forms of assessment, depending on the combination of option modules chosen:

- **Extended essays** or **individual projects** test subject knowledge and provide opportunities to apply appropriate research techniques independently in a specific field of study (K1, K2). At the same time they promote the development of: information and data management, organisational and problem-solving skills; self-discipline and critical analysis; the ability to construct a logical argument; effective communication skills; enhanced understanding of the target language (S1-S5); In addition, **collective projects** foster collaboration and negotiation skills (S4).
- **Individual or small-group presentations** enable students to enhance and apply research techniques and organisational and analytical skills, collaboratively or independently, while developing their communicative fluency and confidence (K1, K2, S1-S5).

All students in the Postgraduate Diploma are assessed in Research Methods:

- The core Research Methods module is designed to test subject knowledge and/or the ability to evaluate the relevance of appropriate sources and research methods.

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 e.g. through running seminars, group and individual presentations, written work and a range of analytical pieces.

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.

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 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 and discipline-specific content modules which enable students to deepen their knowledge of key methodologies within and (where necessary for their work) outside of their disciplines, as well as to develop specialised content knowledge and practical skills.

In certain cases, if optional modules graduate students are taught alongside final year undergraduates. Assessment of the enhanced, graduate, version of these modules addresses the learning outcomes specific to the School's Masters' and Diploma programmes; it requires intensive and extensive study, of independent research, and engagement with the expertise of staff within the School.

Credits are accumulated as follows:

- LAS474 F7 Research Methods in Modern Languages & Cultures 15 Credits
Autumn
- LAS483 F7 Approaches to Literary and Cultural Studies (Critical Theory) 15 Credits
Autumn
- LAS4105 F7 Innovations: Cultural Movements and Patterns 15 Credits
Autumn
- LAS448 F7 Critical Approaches to Culture and Media 15 Credits
Autumn
- LAS447 F7 Race and Ethnicity in a Global Context 15 Credits
Spring
- 45 credits of approved F7 options

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

Normally, a BA in a Modern Foreign Language, or in Modern Languages and Cultures, with a minimum 2:2.

IELTS 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 Vision and Strategic Plan

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision>

23. Additional information

The programme will be promoted alongside the current arrangements for advertising PGT courses, nestled within the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures section.

We offer the ability to hone in and develop existing knowledge and expertise in one or many Modern Languages and Cultures discipline to enhance the employability and CPD areas of the student, making a tailored programme to suit their needs, but without the commitment or workload of a full MA. The programme is directed at the home market in the first instance.

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 School(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>.