

## Module Specification

### Module Summary Information

<b>1</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	Data, Theory & Method in Linguistics
<b>2</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	20
<b>3</b>	<b>Module Level</b>	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	EGL7216

<b>5</b>	<b>Module Overview</b>
<p>This module is designed to help you develop core skills in linguistic research which are vital for your work on the subsequent optional modules and dissertation, and which are also transferable to the workplace or further study. During the course of the module, you will be guided through the whole research process, from conducting a literature review and developing a hypothesis, to collecting and analysing data and writing it up in an appropriate way. The module also covers important practical topics such as academic referencing, fieldwork techniques and research ethics.</p> <p>You will begin by considering fundamental questions such as what we mean by 'language' and the distinguishing features of human language. You will gain an overview of the general field of linguistic research, exploring key definitions and the forms linguistic research might take, before choosing a case study on a specific linguistic sub-field that interests you. Throughout, you will be urged to think critically about concepts you may have taken for granted previously. You can expect to read from a wide range of sources, exploring what has been written about your chosen subject area and reporting critically on the assumptions, observations, and interpretations of the authors. You will undertake some data collection yourself, interpret it, compare your findings with those previously published, and discuss problems of method that you encounter. In many cases, your case study will involve the application of theory to the understanding of practical problems.</p> <p>Learning and teaching is individual by distance learning. There is no set textbook for this module as you will be encouraged to personalise your learning by choosing a linguistic case study of interest to you. Most of your work will be on your chosen case study and on a preparatory exercise. The suggested case studies are of various types but for each there is a detailed online guide on how to proceed. You may adapt the case studies, or offer an alternative in consultation with the module tutor. The tutor is available by email to answer any queries you might have and to give feedback on the exercises you complete.</p>	

<b>6</b>	<b>Indicative Content</b>
<p>Language: what do we mean by language?; distinguishing features of human language</p> <p>Linguistics: definitions; science and non-science; rules and regularities</p> <p>Data: overview of possible data sources for linguistic study; advantages and pitfalls of different types of data</p>	

Theory: types of theory; fuzzy sets; implicational statements and clines; tendencies; measuring frequency; significance; correlation

Method: hypothesis testing; experiment design; research ethics; procedures; variables; reliability; validity; generalisability; evaluation

Literature review: research skills, academic referencing; guidance on choosing a case study topic and producing an annotated bibliography

<b>7</b>		<b>Module Learning Outcomes</b>
<b>On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:</b>		
<b>1</b>		Demonstrate a detailed and critical understanding of what constitutes 'scientific method', and of applicable techniques for linguistic research.
<b>2</b>		Engage critically with a substantial body of knowledge at the forefront of a sub-field of linguistics of your own choice, making an original contribution to debates in this area.
<b>3</b>		Successfully communicate your research findings, giving appropriate consideration to academic and ethical requirements.

<b>8</b>				<b>Module Assessment</b>			
<b>Learning Outcome</b>							
		<b>Coursework</b>	<b>Exam</b>	<b>In-Person</b>			
<b>1-3</b>		<b>X</b>					

<b>9</b>		<b>Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities</b>	
<b>Learning Activities</b>		<b>Hours</b>	
<b>Scheduled Learning (SL)</b> includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable		0	
<b>Directed Learning (DL)</b> includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE		160	
<b>Private Study (PS)</b> includes preparation for exams		40	
<b>Total Study Hours:</b>		200 notional learning hours of online learning	