

Applied Linguistics (Research)

About the course

Level:
PhD
MPhil

CANTERBURY ✓

MEDWAY ✗

SALOMONS ✗

Introduction

An MPhil and PhD in Applied Linguistics are offered in the Department of Language Studies and validated by the University of Kent. These degrees are co-ordinated by Professor Adrian Holliday, who is also Head of the Graduate School, which provides cross-institutional support and facilities for research students within an interdisciplinary community.

In the Applied Linguistics programme there is a major emphasis on critical qualitative research into social and cultural issues in language education; but there is also interest in grammar, discourse and pragmatics.

There is a small, cohesive and friendly community of about ten full-time and twelve part-time students in the Department. There is a strong pastoral ethos, where full-time students can see their supervisors regularly and part-time students can have regular email contact. There is an open-agenda student discussion group held in Adrian Holliday's office every Thursday lunch-time. The Qualitative Research Discussion Group provided a focus for more formal discussion twice per term.

Modes of Study

Full-time and part-time study programmes are available, with opportunities for data-collection in overseas contexts. The University supports research students with various

seminar programmes in research methods and a well-equipped Graduate School.

Application and award of places
The minimal qualification for PhD applicants is:

- a good bachelor's degree in a relevant subject
- an excellent research proposal

However, a Master's degree is often preferred as evidence of some experience in research. The majority of students in TESOL also have professional experience, which adds to their maturity in research perception.

Research Methods Training

Full-time students must attend a programme in research methods during the 1st year. This is an institution-wide, inter-disciplinary programme which covers the full-spectrums of research approaches. It thus allows the student to establish a broad perspective within which to place her or his work, and also to become part of a larger community of research students.

Topics currently researched include:

- comparative British and Chinese influences on language education in Hong Kong
- a systems approach curriculum project planning and evaluation, with special reference to China

- the politics of professional training in language teaching in British higher education
- teachers' and students' acceptance of curriculum methodology within the institutional context of a Japanese university in Britain
- cultural and institutional perceptions of learner autonomy in a university in Turkey
- applications of information technology in distance education
- cultural issues in German-English translation
- a critical analysis of the politics of textbook language
- perceptions of 'culture' in the international discourse of TESOL
- an ethnography of 'learner-centred' teaching in British TESOL

Research in the Department of Language Studies also falls under the aegis of the Centre for Research in Education, which brings it into contact with a rich resource of ideas and experience of great relevance to our own academic and professional interests.

Further Information

Further information in the form of the Research Degrees Prospectus is available from Helen Potter at helen.potter@canterbury.ac.uk, or by writing to the Graduate School at the University.

Contact Professor Adrian Holliday arh1@cant.ac.uk for any specific enquiries about PhD study in the field of Applied Linguistics.