

Course Specification

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Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Humanities		
Course Code(s):	WL050P01UV WL050P31UV	Full-time Part-time	12 Months 2 Years
Course Title:	MA Computational Linguistics		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Arts Computational Linguistics Postgraduate Diploma Computational Linguistics Postgraduate Certificate Computational Linguistics University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	25/Sep/2017		
Last Review:	2016/7		
Course Specification valid from:	2014/5		
Course Specification valid to:	2022/3		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Michael Oakes
Head of Department:	Professor Ruslan Mitkov

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

The entry requirement would normally be a 2:1 undergraduate degree in a computer science, linguistics, translation, languages or mathematics. Exceptionally, a 2:2 would be considered upon a successful interview. Students with a linguistics or language-related discipline but without a background in computer science would be appropriately advised by the course team and additional specialist technical support provided where necessary. We also require IELTS 6.5 or above.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

Are you interested in working with cutting-edge technology at the forefront of language processing?

MA Computational Linguistics is a course run by a leading research group at the University of Wolverhampton. As a Masters student on this course, you will be part of our Research Institute of Information and Language Processing (RIILP), an independent, research-driven University unit specialising in Linguistics and Natural Language Processing.

As the name suggests, Computational Linguistics (sometimes called Natural Language Processing) is the use of computers to study language. On the course, you will be able to study:

- How to use Python and the well-established NLTK library to process natural language texts;
- How to analyse real language usage;
- How to automatically translate text using computer programs;
- The use of computers to study features of language;
- Translation tools such as translation memory systems;
- Computer techniques for automatically classifying natural language texts;
- Understand how Siri, Amazon Echo and Google Home etc. work;
- How to design an experiment that will thoroughly test your research questions.

You will be mentored through this programme by experienced and leading academics from the field. Join our research group today to become part of this team of leading researchers and academics and create your path to a career in computers and language!

Educational Aims of the Course:

The general educational aim of the pathway is the education of specialists in computational linguistics and applications of these areas. You will gain a thorough understanding of theoretical and applied aspects of computational linguistics. You will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge in practical sessions and to complete an independent research project/dissertation presented in an appropriate manner. On completion of the course, you will be equipped for further research at PhD level, as well as having the necessary qualifications to enhance your pursuit of other career paths.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

OTHER FUNDING

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time	£6400.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time	£13350.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3200.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Part-time)

Year 2

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7LN008	Machine Learning for NLP	20	IN YR	Core
7LN007	Dissertation	60	IN YR	Core
7LN004	Computational Linguistics	20	IN YR	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7LN001	Python Programming	20	IN YR	Core
7LN004	Computational Linguistics	20	IN YR	Core
7LN006	Research Methods	20	IN YR	Core
7LN002	Corpus Linguistics with R	20	IN YR	Core
7LN008	Machine Learning for NLP	20	IN YR	Core
7LN007	Dissertation	60	CRYRA	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits

7LN003	Machine Translation	20	IN YR
7LN005	Translation Technology	20	IN YR

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None

Reference Points:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Equality Act 2010
- University Postgraduate Assessment Handbook for Staff
- University of Wolverhampton Blended Learning Strategy

Learning Outcomes:

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGCCLO1)

"Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. 2.to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses."

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGCCLO2)

"Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level."

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGCCL03)

"Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline."

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGCCL04)

"Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences."

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGCCL05)

"Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level."

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGCCL06)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGDCL01)

"Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline 2. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses."

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGDCL02)

"Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level."

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGDCL03)

"Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline."

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGDCL04)

"Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences."

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGDCL05)

"Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level."

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGDCL06)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the

independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (MACLO1)

Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge base of specific topics within the areas of language and information processing and computational linguistics

Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (MACLO2)

Demonstrate a critical understanding of the published literature and current debates in these areas

Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (MACLO3)

Demonstrate a detailed and critical awareness of relevant theories and methodologies in these areas

Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (MACLO4)

Demonstrate a thorough understanding of research questions in the field and the means to develop them effectively in relation to their own specific points of interest

Masters Course Learning Outcome 5 (MACLO5)

"Demonstrate practical skills in high-level computer programming languages, corpus building and natural language processing techniques."

Masters Course Learning Outcome 6 (MACLO6)

"Demonstrate generic transferrable skills of relevance to industry and employability, such as professionalism, team work, presentation skills and preparing texts for publication. "

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7LN001	Python Programming	MACLO1, MACLO3, MACLO5, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7LN002	Corpus Linguistics with R	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7LN003	Machine Translation	MACLO1, MACLO3, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7LN004	Computational Linguistics	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7LN005	Translation Technology	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7LN006	Research Methods	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7LN007	Dissertation	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO6
7LN008	Machine Learning for NLP	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Each lecture will be divided into teaching session and practical session. The division of time will depend on the lecturer and the topic being taught. The teaching session will include theoretical materials and discussions, while the practical session will include work with relevant online demos and programs and the practical applications introduced in the lecture. Lectures take place in lecture rooms and IT labs. In addition to the time spent in the lectures, students are expected to dedicate additional time to private study. Materials will be made available online using CANVAS, although CANVAS is more than just a repository, as it enables you to form e-learning groups for mutual learning support, and a means for tutors to provide feedback before the final submission.

Assessments include essays on given topics, and reports on practical work carried out in the class and tests. The practical sessions include working with tools and software and developing programmes based on the material taught in the lectures, allowing you to apply the technical skills you are learning. Some of the tasks are group based, feeding into the collaboration aspect of blended learning which enhances team-working skills, and some are done individually. Through portfolio building you will be able to share your learning with other students. You will also be able to enhance your employability by sharing your online portfolio with prospective employers. Some assessments will require you to present your work to the rest of the class, enabling you to develop your presentation skills, which are useful in both academia and industry. Other transferrable skills are the abilities to structure your thoughts, present your ideas clearly in writing and prepare texts for a wider audience. You will acquire these skills through assessed report and essay writing, and most of all through writing your dissertation.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

Learning & Information Services (LIS) provides general academic skills support to all students. They can attend a drop-in session for an individual, one-on-one discussion with a Learning and Skills Librarian for advice on areas such as academic writing, assignment planning, exam preparation and time management. In addition, there is a regular timetable of bookable workshops covering information and digital literacy skills, including academic referencing. Students are supported by a designated Liaison Librarian who is available to support research and project work. Further details on the LIS skills for learning page http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills_for_learning.aspx

Each student will be allocated both a personal academic tutor and a dissertation supervisor. These are separate roles, to be fulfilled by two different people.

Students will be invited to seminars given by invited visitors to the research group.

Students will be given access to specialised software.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Graduates of this course will be well-placed to continue their academic/research careers by applying for PhD positions within RIILP or at other leading centres for language and information processing. This degree will

also enable graduates to access research and development positions within the language processing and human language technology industries, as well as in related areas such as translation, software development and information and communication technologies, depending on their specific module choices and dissertation topic. It should be noted that computer programming is a skill that is increasingly sought after by many companies from technological backgrounds and skills gained from this course will place graduates in a good position to take up such posts. Past graduates from this course have also gone on to successful careers specifically within the computer programming industry.



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