

Programme Specification

Section 1: Basic Data

Awarding institution/body	University of the West of England
Teaching institution	University of the West of England
Faculty responsible for programme	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme accredited by	
Highest award title	MA in Translation
Default award title	
Interim award titles	Post-graduate certificate Post-graduate diploma
Modular Scheme title (if different)	
UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Languages and Related Studies
On-going/valid until* (*delete as appropriate/insert end date)	Ongoing
Valid from (insert date if appropriate)	September 1998/updated for September 2002/updated for September 2004 Updated 1/9//2008
Version: 1.1	

Section 2: Educational aims of the programme

- To enable students to develop very high two-way general translation skills into English and into French, German and Spanish, and specialised, professionally valuable, translation skills from French, German and Spanish into English
- To enable students to explore, at a level commensurate with post-graduate study, the place and relevance of Linguistics and Translation Theory in relation to practical translation tasks
- To introduce students, where appropriate, to computer-assisted modes of translation and translation research
- To provide a framework for study, by Dissertation, to Masters' level in an area selected by the student

Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: ...

A Knowledge and understanding

Learning outcomes

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

A Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Relevant language or languages, lexis and grammar
2. Translation techniques
3. Specialist lexis in both languages
4. Translation theory
5. Linguistic theory relevant to text analysis and translating humorous texts
6. Computer-assisted translation software : terminology management, translation memory, parallel corpora

Teaching/learning methods and strategies:

Acquisition of 1, 2 and 3 is through practical translation tasks, in and out of one or two of the languages and English, including texts drawn from specialist areas. Practice pieces are submitted to the computer conferencing system on a regular basis. Model versions are posted, tutors provide feedback to students and students are encouraged to read each others' versions and discuss key points

Acquisition of 4 and 5 is through the reading of a key text or key texts, with relevant practical exercises set and commented upon by the tutor at regular intervals.

Additional support is provided through the computer conferencing system, with hypertext and interactive exercises.

Acquisition of 6 is through accessing and evaluating the software provided on-line or via the Internet by the Faculty and presented by the tutor in a number of exercises and tasks

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject ...

Assessment:

Testing of the knowledge base is through assessed coursework (1-6).

B Intellectual Skills

<p>B Intellectual Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Finding translation equivalence - transferring ideas/concepts/atmosphere2. Critiquing existing professional translations3. Linguistic analysis in text typology and critique of translation/translation commentary4. Analysis and synthesis of ideas in translation studies, text linguistics and the language of humour5. Evaluation of the relevance and applicability of translation theories and strategies, including the use of computer-assisted or parallel corpus approaches to translation.6. Qualitative and quantitative approaches to empirical study and the testing of hypotheses.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies <i>Intellectual skills are developed through reading, practical analyses and exercises, translations from and into the foreign language, writing commentaries and critiques of existing translations, extended and reasoned essays involving independent literature searches, the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of ideas as well as empirical work</i></p> <p>Assessment <i>A variety of assessment methods is employed. Skills 1-3 are tested through translation, critique, and essays. Course-works may demand independent literature searches (4, 5 and 6) and the MA dissertation may be secondary research (4 and 5) or primary research (6).</i></p>
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C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

<p>C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills</p> <p>- <i>able to: ...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Translate to a professional level of proficiency from and into English and French, German and/or Spanish 2. Review or provide a reasoned commentary on professional translations from French, German and/or Spanish into English. 3. Compile subject-specific glossaries. 4. Use word-processing and relevant computer-assisted translation tools 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>...translations (with glossaries) ...reflective commentaries ...manipulation of computer tools</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p><i>Skills 1, 3 and 4 are primarily assessed in course-works focussing on general and specialised translation . Skill 2 is assessed by course-work and involves text typology and comparative linguistic analysis.</i></p>
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D Transferable Skills and other attributes

<p>D Transferable skills and other attributes</p> <p>- <i>able to: ...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. work in a strictly on-line environment 2. work autonomously, find independent sources and meet stringent deadlines 3. critically analyse and pursue clear lines of thought 4. evaluate in a reflective manner 5. use a range of information and communications technology, including specific software devised for translation and translation research 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Skill 1 is a sine qua non of the course and makes particular demands on this group of students, Skill 2 is fostered by the need to submit course-works and the dissertation by specified dates; Skills 3 and 4 are developed throughout the course in all of its modules, as one might expect of an 'M' level programme and Skill 5 is required as an integral part of the delivery of the course with computer-assisted translation technology appearing in specified modules devoted to these new methodologies.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Skills 1 and 2 are implicitly assessed, Skill 1 by the student's ability to access and follow course materials, and to interact with fellow students and the tutor on the conferencing system, and Skill 2 by their observing the deadlines for the submission of course-work. Skills 3 and 4 are formally assessed in all the modules, this aspect forming part of the marking criteria. Skill 5 is implicitly assessed through the student's ability to follow the course and submit practice and assessed pieces of work, whilst the ability to use computer-assisted translation technology is formally assessed in relevant modules.</p>
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Section 4: Programme structure

Use next page to provide a structural chart of the programme showing:

- *Level and credit requirements*
- *Interim award requirements*
- *Module diet, including compulsory/core/optional modules*

ENTRY
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year 1 (or 1 and 2... if part-time)	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <p>If the student has no background in Applied Linguistics, one of the following modules must be included :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPNQCR-15-M Introduction to Critique of Translation • UPNQC8-30-M Theories of Translation • UPNQC7-30-M Humour and its Translation • UPNQC9-30-M Text Linguistics <p>Students are strongly advised to take the CAT module before the CBSTP module, if they have no previous professional experience of, for example, TRADOS software.</p>	<p>Optional modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Translation (To and from English and French, German, Italian, Spanish or Arabic) • Critique of Translation • UPNQC8-30-M Theories of Translation • UPNQC7-30-M Humour and its Translation • UPNQC9-30-M Text Linguistics • UPNQCK-30-M Computer-assisted Translation (CAT) • UPNQCL-30-M Corpus-based Specialised Translation Project (CBSTP) 	<p>Interim Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements 60 credits - P/G Certificate 120 credits - P/G Diploma • Other requirements
	<p>Core modules</p>		
Year 2 (or 3, 4... if part-time)	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Dissertation 	<p>Optional modules N/A</p>	<p>Interim Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements 60 credits - P/G Certificate 120 credits - P/G Diploma • Other requirements
	<p>Core modules N/A</p>		
			<p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target/highest: MA in Translation • Default title : P/D Certificate ; P/G Diploma • <p>Credit requirements 180 for MA Dissertation 120 for P/G Diploma 60 for P/G Certificate</p>

→ GRADUATION

Section 5: Entry requirements

BA in Modern Languages or equivalent

Section 6: Assessment Regulations

- a) **MAR** X
- b) **Approved MAR variant (insert variant)**
- c) **Non MAR**

Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support

This is a Distance Learning degree, which is conducted via the UWEOnline/Blackboard conferencing/virtual learning system. Students are invited to attend an Induction session (in September) at the beginning of the course and a Research Methods Day (mid-June) before they undertake their dissertation. Both of these sessions are reduplicated in electronic form for those students whose work or other commitments do not permit them to attend in person.

The degree in translation particularly lends itself to such methods and a convivial working atmosphere is set up in the sub-conferences devoted to each module. In addition, an overall conference allows award-generic contacts to be made between students (buying and selling books for example) and in order to conduct (virtual) Award Management Committee meetings and make announcements relevant to the whole student body.

Students will find their tutors provide excellent feedback on work submitted and encourage dialogue on the relevant subconference. The Post-graduate administrator can help with financial matters and module choices. There is substantial Library support for part-time and distance-learning students and the UK Libraries Plus Scheme allows distance learning students to borrow material from other university libraries in closer proximity to where they live or work.

Students on this MA Award are led gradually from a professional approach to translation towards a more reflective, academic and analytical evaluation of theoretical viewpoints current in the field of translation studies. In this way, they are well prepared to make the transition to independent research study and to become fully-fledged post-graduate researchers in their own right.

With the introduction, in 2004, of translation technology modules, students may choose to develop their skills in methodologies which are becoming increasingly widespread both in the translation industry and in the research area of translation studies.

Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks

- *Subject benchmarks : QAA Units for 'Languages & Related Studies (2002) QAA Benchmark statement for 'Linguistics' (2001)*
- *SEEC Credit Level Descriptors 2001.*
- *UWE teaching and learning and assessment policies.*
- *PCEP: Approval of New Programmes & Award Routes: Guidance Notes on Documentation to be Submitted (2001-02) (September 2001)*
 - *National Standards in Translating. Languages National Training Organisation 2001.*

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications. These are available on the University Intranet.

Programme monitoring and review may lead to changes to approved programmes. There may be a time lag between approval of such changes/modifications and their incorporation into an authorised programme specification. Enquiries about any recent changes to the programme made since this specification was authorised should be made to the relevant Faculty Administrator.