



Your Programme

MLitt/PgDip Language Policy and Planning

Introduction

The MLitt and Diploma in Language Policy and Planning is designed around the expertise of members of staff involved in both academic and practical aspects of minority language planning and policy. Members of staff have worked as language planners with language planning bodies, have helped to advise on and draft minority language legislation, and have advised international organisations, governments, language planning bodies and non-governmental language organisations, as well as having researched and published widely in the area. The creation of the MLitt coincides with the development of a Centre for Minority Language Policy and Planning which will create various collaborative opportunities with practitioners and experts in other jurisdictions. The MLitt aims to provide all students with training in key research skills and a thorough grounding in the crucial conceptual issues and theoretical approaches to the subject, and a significant range of choices for more intensive study of particular aspects of the field.

Course Structure

Students are required to complete four compulsory courses, and two of a possible six option courses. Finally, all students on the MLitt are required to write a dissertation of 15,000 words over the summer.

First Semester Core:

Sociolinguistic Methods I (Compulsory)
Models of Language in Society (Compulsory)
Models of Minority Language Policy and Planning (Compulsory)

Second Semester Core:

Research Methods in Minority Language Policy and Planning (Compulsory)

Two Option Courses:

Note - not all courses will necessarily run every year.
Legal Regimes for the Protection of Minority Languages
Socioeconomic Development and Minority Language Policy and Planning
Media and Minority Languages Policy and Planning
Issues in Acquisition Planning for Minority Languages
Implementing Minority Language Legislation and Policy in Scotland
Issues in Corpus Planning for Minority Languages

Masters Stage:

Dissertation in Language Policy and Planning.

Assessment

Assessment is by a combination of coursework and written examination, as prescribed for each course. The degree of MLitt will not be awarded to a candidate who fails or does not write a Dissertation, irrespective of their performance in other courses: such candidates may, at the discretion of the Examiner, be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma.

Who Will Take This Degree?

The MLitt will appeal to students who are interested in a broad range of issues concerning minority languages and concerning strategies for their maintenance and revitalisation. The degree will be particularly appropriate for those who are interested in work in the area of minority language planning and policy, who are interested in the implementation of language policy in the public, private and voluntary sector, who may be involved in the design and delivery of minority language services and services through the medium of minority language. The degree will have a strong practical as well as theoretical basis. It will be particularly attractive to anyone who has an interest in, or may be involved in the implementation of language legislation and policies in Scotland, and in other jurisdictions in which language legislation and/or policy in respect of a minority language or languages exists. Students can take this programme as a diploma, a stand-alone one-year full-time or two-year part-time Masters degree (but immigration regulations may prevent an overseas student from studying part-time), or as a first step towards an MPhil or PhD (subject to admission to a further degree programme at Aberdeen or elsewhere).

Entrance Requirements

The standard entrance requirement is a good first degree in Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Sociology, Law or modern languages (although we would be happy to consider applicants with other backgrounds and having an interest in or experience relevant to minority language development) at a 2.i level or at a level deemed equivalent by the programme coordinator. Students whose first language is not English need to have a minimum of IELTS at 6.5, or TOEFL at 580. The programme coordinator will also consider applicants with non-standard qualifications.

Cost, Grants & Scholarships

Please check the current fees on our web pages at www.abdn.ac.uk/sras You will also find funding and scholarship information here. Estimates are provided for living expenses; books and excursions will cost extra.

- The College of Arts and Social Sciences offers a limited number of awards to assist with fees. Details are available via the website: www.abdn.ac.uk/cass
- Scottish students with a first-class Honours degree may apply to the Carnegie Trust: www.carnegie.org.uk
- The AHRC will provide fees and maintenance for UK students and fees only for European Union students: www.ahrc.ac.uk
- ORS: The Overseas Research Student scheme makes awards competitively to outstanding non-EU nationals undertaking a research degree, usually a PhD, and lowers the fees payable to British levels. Taking the MLitt in Language Policy and Planning may enhance a student's chance of obtaining ORS funding towards a PhD at the end of their MLitt course. See ORS website: www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/ORS

Further Information

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The application form is also available at www.abdn.ac.uk/sras/postgraduate/apply5.shtml