



Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Linguistics

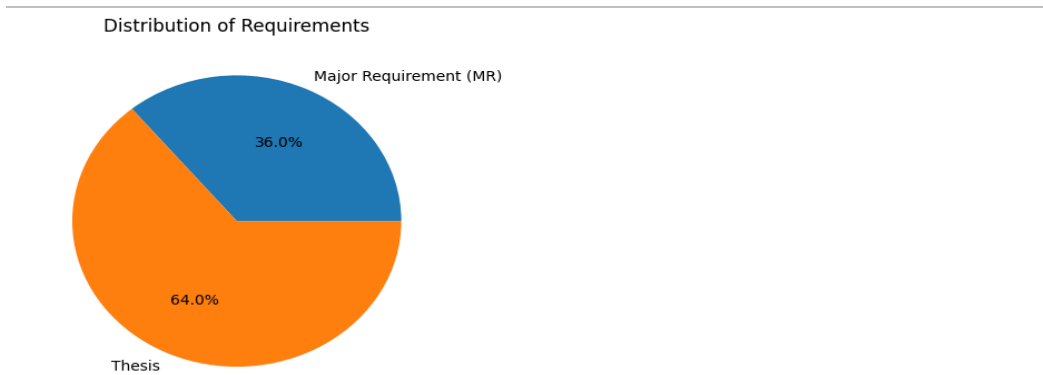
College of Arts - University of Bahrain

2026-2027

Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Linguistics

Study Plan: 2026-2027

The Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Linguistics consists of 9 courses in addition to the thesis comprising a total of 75 credit hours distributed per semester as follows.



University Requirement (UR)	NA
College Requirement (CR)	NA
General Studies Compulsory (GSCC)	NA
Major Requirement (MR)	27
Major Elective (ME)¹	NA
General Studies Elective (GSE)²	NA
Training (Internship) Yes	NA
Thesis	48
Total Credit (CRD)	75

Detailed Study Plan

Foundation Level: Year 1- Semester 1

Course Code	Course Title	Course Hours			Course Type (as shown in credit hours distribution)	Pre-Requisite; specify if there is grade for completion	Major CGPA	Final Exam (Yes/No)	Department Offering
		LE C	PRA C	CR D					
ENGL 701	Advanced Quantitative & Computational Methods for	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature

	Applied Linguistics								
ENGL 702	Qualitative, Discursive & Mixed-Methods Inquiry in Applied Linguistics	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature
ENGL 703	Topics in Applied Linguistics	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature

Seminars and Data Analysis Methods: Year 1- Semester 2

Course Code	Course Title	Course Hours			Course Type (as shown in credit hours distribution)	Pre-Requisite; specify if there is grade for completion	Major CGPA	Final Exam (Yes/No)	Department Offering
		LE C	PRA C	CR D					
ENGL 704	Language Assessment and Testing	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature
ENGL 705	Discourse Analysis	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature
ENGL 706	Advanced Topics in Language Acquisition	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature

Thesis Stage: Research Design and Proposal Year 2- Semester 1

Course Code	Course Title	Course Hours			Course Type (as shown in credit hours distribution)	Pre-Requisite; specify if there is grade for completion	Major CGPA	Final Exam (Yes/No)	Department Offering
		LE C	PRA C	CR D					
ENGL 707	Seminar in Sociolinguistics	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English

									Language and literature
ENGL 708	Thesis Proposal	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature
ENGL 709	Digital Applications in Linguistics	3	0	3	MR	None	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature

Thesis Stage: Research Design and Proposal Year 2- Semester 2

Course Code	Course Title	Course Hours			Course Type (as shown in credit hours distribution)	Pre-Requisite; specify if there is grade for completion	Major CGPA	Final Exam (Yes/No)	Department Offering
		LE C	PRA C	CR D					
ENGL 775	Thesis	0	36	12	MR	ENGL 708	No	Department of English Language and literature	

Thesis Stage: Research Design and Proposal Year 3- Semester 1

Course Code	Course Title	Course Hours			Course Type (as shown in credit hours distribution)	Pre-Requisite; specify if there is grade for completion	Major CGPA	Final Exam (Yes/No)	Department Offering
		LE C	PRA C	CR D					
ENGL 776	Thesis	0	36	12	MR	ENGL 775	No	Department of English Language and literature	

Thesis Stage: Research Design and Proposal Year 3 -- Semester 2

Course Code	Course Title	Course Hours			Course Type (as shown in credit hours distribution)	Pre-Requisite; specify if there is grade for completion	Major CGPA	Final Exam (Yes/No)	Department Offering
		LE C	PRA C	CR D					
ENGL 777	Thesis	0	36	12	MR	ENGL 776	YES	No	Department of English Language and literature

Thesis Stage: Research Design and Proposal Year 4 – Semester 1

Course Code	Course Title	Course Hours			Course Type (as shown in credit hours distribution)	Pre-Requisite; specify if there is grade for completion	Major CGPA	Final Exam (Yes/No)	Department Offering
		LE C	PRA C	CR D					
ENGL 778	Thesis	0	36	12	MR	ENGL 777	No	No	Department of English Language and literature

Course Description

Course Code:	ENGL 701	Course Title:	Advanced Quantitative & Computational Methods for Applied Linguistics
Course Description:	This course provides a systematic and critical understanding of advanced quantitative and computational methods for applied linguistics. Students exercise professional autonomy and accountability to design and execute original research addressing complex language phenomena, including second language acquisition, assessment, and processing. Through critical evaluation of statistical software packages and computational tools, they synthesise findings, ensure reproducibility, and address ethical research practices. The curriculum enables substantial, evidence-based contributions to the discipline, preparing researchers to lead computationally rigorous investigations.		

Course Code:	ENGL 702	Course Title:	Qualitative, Discursive & Mixed-Methods Inquiry in Applied Linguistics
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Course Description:	<p>This course provides systematic and critical understanding of advanced qualitative and discursive methods for applied linguistics. Students design and execute original studies in real-world contexts, using digital tools for qualitative data management and analysis. Critical engagement with ethical research practices, including positionality and confidentiality, ensures responsible scholarship. Through workshops, participants generate novel insights, establish research validity (credibility, transferability), and demonstrate professional autonomy and accountability at the forefront of the discipline, preparing to lead mixed-methods and discursive research in multilingual or digital communication settings.</p>
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Course Code:	ENGL 703	Course Title:	Topics in Applied Linguistics
Course Description:	<p>This course explores advanced and emerging issues in Applied Linguistics, providing candidates with a critical understanding of the theoretical, methodological, and interdisciplinary dimensions shaping the field today. The course examines a range of specialized topics that may include language acquisition and pedagogy, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, translation studies, multilingualism, and language policy. Emphasis is placed on developing students' ability to evaluate competing theoretical models, engage critically with empirical research, and formulate original inquiries relevant to contemporary linguistic challenges.</p>		

Course Code:	ENGL 704	Course Title:	Language Assessment and Testing
Course Description:	<p>This course examines theoretical and practical aspects of language assessment, including test design, validation, reliability, and fairness. Students will explore both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced testing, classical and modern psychometric approaches, and the interpretation of test results for research and educational purposes. Emphasis is placed on developing, administering, and critically evaluating language assessments for diverse contexts, with particular attention to ethical considerations and the impact of assessment on learning and teaching.</p>		

Course Code:	ENGL 705	Course Title:	Discourse Analysis
Course Description:	<p>This course provides an in-depth overview of major theories and methods for analyzing spoken and written discourse in applied linguistics. It covers information structure, pragmatics, speech act theory, politeness, conversation analysis, and critical discourse analysis. Students apply established analytical frameworks to authentic language data</p>		

	drawn from diverse genres and social contexts. Emphasis is placed on methodological rigor in data collection, transcription, coding, and interpretation. The course develops students' ability to critically evaluate discourse practices and relate findings to educational, professional, and institutional settings, supporting theoretically informed and empirically grounded discourse research in contemporary language studies
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Course Code:	ENGL 706	Course Title:	Advanced Topics in Language Acquisition
Course Description:	This course examines major theories, models, and empirical findings in first and second language acquisition. It addresses cognitive, social, and interactional factors influencing language development, including input, interaction, age effects, bilingualism, and the relationship between acquisition and linguistic theory. Students critically engage with foundational and contemporary research, analyze methodological approaches, and evaluate theoretical debates in the field. The course emphasizes the systematic design of acquisition research, including formulating research questions and selecting appropriate methods. By the end of the course, students are prepared to conduct original, theoretically informed, and methodologically rigorous research in language acquisition.		

Course Code:	ENGL 707	Course Title:	Seminar in Sociolinguistics
Course Description:	This seminar investigates advanced issues in sociolinguistics, focusing on language variation, change, and use in society. Topics may include language and identity, multilingualism, language policy, dialectology, and the sociopolitical dimensions of language. Students will analyze sociolinguistic data and critically engage with current debates in the field. The seminar emphasizes the development of research skills for investigating language in its social context, with particular attention to ethical considerations in sociolinguistic fieldwork and analysis..		

Course Code:	ENGL 708	Course Title:	Thesis Proposal
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Course Description:	This expert-level course prepares doctoral candidates to originate and develop a complete dissertation proposal in applied linguistics. Students synthesize extensive literature, formulate significant research questions, and design methodologically rigorous studies, exercising sole responsibility for scholarly and ethical integrity. Through structured writing, peer critique, and professional-level defense preparation, the course equips students to produce a comprehensive proposal and defend it before a faculty panel, demonstrating readiness to undertake independent doctoral research at the forefront of the discipline
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Course Code:	ENGL 709	Course Title:	Digital Applications in Linguistics
Course Description:	This advanced provides expert training in the application of digital tools and computational methods to linguistic research, with a specific focus on corpus linguistics, natural language processing, and other technology-driven approaches. Students develop expertise and critical knowledge at the forefront of the discipline, learning to construct, manage, and analyse digital datasets with autonomy and strategic accountability, making informed judgments on complex and methodologically unpredictable research contexts. The curriculum emphasises reproducibility, ethical responsibility, and the critical evaluation of algorithmic bias and data privacy. Through hands-on engagement, students apply specialist knowledge in creative and novel ways to investigate complex language phenomena, preparing them to lead innovative, technology-driven research in applied linguistics		

Course Code:	ENGL 775 - ENGL 778	Course Title:	Thesis
Course Description:	This component of the programme represents the culmination of doctoral studies, requiring students to execute an independent, original research project that makes a significant contribution to existing knowledge and practice at the forefront of applied linguistics. Students operate at an expert level with sole responsibility and accountability for all phases of research. Under faculty supervision, students apply highly specialized skills to collect and analyze data, critically synthesize findings, and generate new theoretical insights. The course demands the production of a dissertation that demonstrates professional-level autonomy and meets the highest scholarly standards, culminating in a public oral defense before an expert panel.		

