

# MSc Computational Linguistics

## Programme specification

### 1. Programme details

| Item                                | Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Programme name (incl. pathways): | MSc Computational Linguistics                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| b) Programme code(s)                | TBC                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| c) Programme credit value(s)        | 180 CATS<br>90 ECTS                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| d) Programme author(s)              | Tony Russell-Rose                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| e) Entry requirements               | A good undergraduate degree (2:2 or above) in a relevant subject such as linguistics, computer science, or a related discipline. Applicants with other backgrounds and relevant professional experience may also be considered. |
| f) Academic year effective from     | 2026/27                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

### 2. Programme Aims & Overview

#### Aims

The MSc Computational Linguistics aims to develop the knowledge, technical skills and critical awareness needed to work at the intersection of language and computation. The programme equips you with a rigorous grounding in linguistic theory and computational methods, enabling them to analyse, model and build language technologies with confidence and critical judgement. It prepares graduates for careers in industry, research and the public sector, while fostering a commitment to ethical and responsible practice in the development and deployment of AI-driven language systems.

#### Overview

The MSc Computational Linguistics explores how language is analysed, modelled, and transformed through contemporary AI systems. It combines linguistic theory with practical skills in natural language processing, machine learning, and large language models, enabling you to work across the boundaries of language and computation. The programme develops the ability to analyse text and speech data, design and evaluate language technologies, and apply these techniques to real-world problems - such as building sentiment analysis tools, developing conversational agents, analysing social media discourse, or creating language resources for underrepresented communities. Alongside technical expertise, it emphasises critical engagement with the social, cultural, and ethical implications of language technologies, including issues of bias, representation, and power. You will graduate with a portfolio of applied projects and an independent

dissertation, equipping them for careers in industry, research, or the public sector wherever language and technology intersect.

### 3. External reference

| Item                    | Information             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) FHEQ Level of Award: | 7                       |
| b) UCAS Code(s):        | TBC                     |
| c) HECoS Code(s):       | TBC                     |
| d) QAA Benchmark group: | Computing / Linguistics |

### 4. Awards

| Item                                                     | Information                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Awarding institution:                                 | Goldsmiths, University of London                                                                                                                                                             |
| b) Teaching institution:                                 | Goldsmiths, University of London                                                                                                                                                             |
| c) Home School:                                          | Computing<br><b>If other, name here:</b> N/A                                                                                                                                                 |
| d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme: | 1. None 2. None 3. None<br><b>If other, name here:</b> N/A                                                                                                                                   |
| e) Entry awards:                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip |
| f) Interim exit awards:                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip |
| g) Final awards:                                         | MSc Computational Linguistics<br>PGDip Computational Linguistics<br>PGCert Computational Linguistics                                                                                         |

### 5. Delivery

| Item                            | Information                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Language of study:           | English                                                                                                                                                                       |
| b) Valid intake points in year: | <input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other<br>If other, specify: August, October, March and June |
| c) Mode of study:               | Online Distance Learning                                                                                                                                                      |

| Item                                  | Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
|                                       | Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the rows below. Row d) shows total hours of directed learning, with e) and f) showing how this is broken down in in-person vs. online learning, in hours and percentages. |      |
| d) Total hours directed learning/year | <b>200</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |
| e) In-person hours                    | 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 0%   |
| f) Online hours                       | 200                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 100% |
| g) Pace of study:                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time                                                                                                                                            |      |
| h) Duration of programme              | Full time: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months<br>Part time: 24 <input type="checkbox"/> years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> months                                                    |      |
| i) External accreditation:            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |      |
| j) Apprenticeship Standard:           | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |      |

## 6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

**Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:**

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

**On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:**

|    | Learning Outcome                                                                                                                 | Level | Graduate Attribute       |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| D1 | Apply key concepts in the structure and meaning of language, including how these are shaped by use, context, and social factors. | 7     | Diversity of perspective |
| D2 | Evaluate computational approaches to language, including natural language processing, corpus methods, and formal models.         | 7     | Diversity of perspective |
| D3 | Critically assess the capabilities and limitations of AI and large language model approaches to language, with particular        | 7     | Responsible agency       |

|    | Learning Outcome                                                                                                              | Level | Graduate Attribute        |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
|    | reference to human-machine interaction and multimodal applications.                                                           |       |                           |
| F1 | Analyse linguistic data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative/computational methods.                                 | 7     | Diversity of perspective  |
| F2 | Design, implement, and evaluate NLP and machine learning solutions for real-world language tasks.                             | 7     | Responsible agency        |
| F3 | Plan and execute an independent research or applied project in computational linguistics, and justify methodological choices. | 7     | Responsible agency        |
| P1 | Communicate methods, results, and insights effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.                            | 7     | Collaboration             |
| P2 | Critically evaluate methods, assumptions, and outcomes, demonstrating reflective and independent thinking.                    | 7     | Political in the personal |
| P3 | Integrate interdisciplinary approaches to solve complex problems in an ethical and responsible manner.                        | 7     | Diversity of perspective  |

## 7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Programmes are staged in **Phases**, where each Phase relates to an exit award.

**Compulsory** modules must be taken by all students.

**Option** modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

### Programme structure notes (where relevant):

The programme is delivered in three phases of 60 credits each. Phase 1 establishes foundational knowledge in linguistics, data, and artificial intelligence. Phase 2 develops computational methods in natural language processing and machine learning, alongside modules that broaden and deepen understanding in areas such as large language models and human-computer interaction. Phase 3 consists of a 60-credit independent project.

The programme is delivered fully online with three entry points per year. Modules within each Phase may be taken in any order. Phase 1 modules are foundational and must be completed before progressing to Phase 2.

The programme is designed to support flexible progression through a modular structure, enabling you to build core knowledge before specialising and applying your skills in an extended project.

### Phase 1 (PT)

| Module Name                             | Code | Credit | Level | Type       | Term  | Year PT | Pathway |
|-----------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Core Issues in Language and Linguistics | TBC  | 15     | 7     | Compulsory | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |
| Data Programming                        | TBC  | 15     | 7     | Compulsory | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |
| Corpus Linguistics                      | TBC  | 15     | 7     | Compulsory | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |
| Artificial Intelligence                 | TBC  | 15     | 7     | Compulsory | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |

### Phase 2 (PT)

| Module Name                 | Module Code | Credit | Level | Module Type | Term  | Year PT | Pathway |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|-------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Machine Learning            | TBC         | 15     | 7     | Compulsory  | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |
| Natural Language Processing | TBC         | 15     | 7     | Compulsory  | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |
| Interaction Science         | TBC         | 15     | 7     | Compulsory  | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |
| Large Language Models       | TBC         | 15     | 7     | Compulsory  | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |

### Phase 3 (PT)

| Module Name                                | Module Code | Credit | Level | Module Type | Term  | Year PT | Pathway |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|-------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Final Project in Computational Linguistics | TBC         | 60     | 7     | Compulsory  | Multi | N/A     | N/A     |

## 8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

### Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through VLE content including recorded lectures, curated readings, structured formative activities, and forum discussions. It may have a mix of synchronous webinars

and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your learning experience. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

**Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:**

Teaching is delivered fully online through a combination of asynchronous learning activities and supported engagement opportunities. You will engage with structured learning materials, including recorded lectures, guided readings, and interactive exercises, supported by practical coding and data analysis tasks.

Modules are designed to be applied and hands-on, with a strong emphasis on working with real-world language data and computational tools. You develop your skills through a combination of individual activities and collaborative tasks, including discussion forums, peer interaction, and group-based exercises where appropriate.

The programme is designed to support flexible learning, allowing you to engage with materials at your own pace while maintaining a clear structure and progression through each module.

**Assessment modes and approaches**

You will be assessed in a range ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

**Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:**

Assessment will be primarily coursework-based and may include programming assignments, data analysis tasks, written reports, and project work. You will be assessed on your ability to apply computational methods to language data, critically evaluate approaches, and communicate your findings effectively. The final project provides an opportunity for extended independent work, integrating theoretical and practical learning.

**Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)**

| Mode                    | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | Level 6 | Level 7 | Total |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Coursework              | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 5       | 5     |
| Exam                    | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 2       | 2     |
| Live                    | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0     |
| Portfolio (multi-modal) | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 1     |
| Practical / multimedia  | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0     |
| Written                 | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 1     |

| Mode               | Level 3            | Level 4  | Level 5       | Level 6  | Level 7  | Total    |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>TOTAL:</b>      | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> |
| <b>Of which...</b> | <b>Individual:</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>Group:</b> | <b>0</b> |          |          |

## 9. Other information

| Item                                                | Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Assessment regulations                           | <a href="https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/">https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| b) Placement opportunities                          | TBC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| c) Programme-specific requirements                  | You must have access to a computer with a stable internet connection capable of running Python and associated data science libraries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| d) Programme specific costs and resources           | No additional programme-specific costs beyond standard university fees.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| e) Employability and potential career opportunities | Upon graduating from this programme you will be equipped for roles in areas such as natural language processing, data science, artificial intelligence, and language technology. You will develop skills relevant to careers in technology companies, research organisations, and data-driven industries, as well as for further academic study. The combination of linguistic and computational expertise also supports roles in areas such as content analysis, user research, and AI ethics. |

## 10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

## 11. Curriculum map

### Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

| Module name                                | Code | Type       | D1 | D2 | D3 | F1 | F2 | F3 | P1 | P2 | P3 |
|--------------------------------------------|------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Core Issues in Language & Linguistics      | TBC  | Compulsory | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  |
| Data Programming                           | TBC  | Compulsory | ☐  | ☐  | ☐  | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  | ☐  | ☒  | ☒  |
| Corpus Linguistics                         | TBC  | Compulsory | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  | ☐  |
| Artificial Intelligence                    | TBC  | Compulsory | ☐  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  |
| Machine Learning                           | TBC  | Compulsory | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☐  |
| Natural Language Processing                | TBC  | Compulsory | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  |
| Interaction Science                        | TBC  | Compulsory | ☐  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☐  | ☐  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  |
| Large Language Models                      | TBC  | Compulsory | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  | ☐  | ☒  | ☐  |
| Final Project in Computational Linguistics | TBC  | Compulsory | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☒  | ☐  |