



University of St Andrews  
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600 YEARS  
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# English Language Teaching

## Postgraduate Study 2012 Entry





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# English Language Teaching

## Features

The University of St Andrews is situated on the east coast of Scotland in an attractive mediaeval town. The town and the University are closely intertwined, creating a truly cosmopolitan academic community in a welcoming Scottish setting. Our students often comment that St Andrews succeeds in being both friendly and sociable, but also tranquil enough to be conducive to study, and it is this, combined with – above all – our excellence in teaching and research, which makes the St Andrews experience so unique.

The English Language Teaching (ELT) Centre is now in its twenty-first year dedicated to the teaching and learning of the English language. Our aims on the MLitt programmes are to ensure that students have a good overview of applied linguistics theory combined with the tools required to integrate theories of language learning and teaching into their classroom practice and to reflect critically on their own teaching.

ELT staff are all experienced and well-qualified ELT and ESAP practitioners and students on our programmes can expect opportunities to observe “live” classes at the Centre and elsewhere as well as opportunities for peer teaching.

## Postgraduate Programmes

[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/elt/tesol/mlitt](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/elt/tesol/mlitt)

### MLitt (One Year):

English Language Teaching (collaborative) with Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China  
English Language Teaching (full time at University of St Andrews)

*For both Masters degrees there are exit awards available that allow suitably-qualified candidates to receive a Postgraduate Diploma.*

## Postgraduate Community

The ELT Centre provides a friendly and supportive atmosphere for its postgraduate students. The ELT student cohort is truly international with students coming from a wide variety of countries. All our courses are student-centred and Masters students are encouraged to observe English for Academic Purposes (EAP) classes within the department and EFL/ESOL classes in the local community. This promotes an exchange of teaching ideas and techniques amongst students, tutors and practitioners. ELT tutors participate in local and international



Beijing Foreign Studies University



Beijing Foreign Studies University Library

conferences and Masters students are assisted with funding to attend seminars and conferences held within the UK.

### Location and Facilities at the University of St Andrews

Our programmes are based in the ELT Centre which is located in an attractive Victorian house overlooking the science campus with views across the world famous golf courses to the mountains and sea beyond. The department has well-equipped classrooms and excellent teaching resources and materials. It is a short walk from most postgraduate halls of residence, the University Library and the Sports Centre.

### Beijing Foreign Studies University

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) is China's foremost institution for foreign language studies. It is a key university directly affiliated with the Ministry of Education (MOE) of the People's Republic of China. As a result of its excellence in foreign language teaching and research, BFSU has become highly-ranked for the quality of its programmes. The partner for our collaborative programme, The National Research Centre for Foreign Language Education (NRCFLE), founded in 2000, is one of the national key research institutes in humanities and social sciences funded by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Known for its high-calibre research, it offers several postgraduate programmes in linguistics and applied linguistics.

BFSU is located in Haidian, the "university district" of Beijing, which has a high concentration of key higher education institutions. It is situated on the Third Ring Road which means that transport links are very convenient.

BFSU has a good staff-student ratio, with a highly-qualified, experienced and conscientious faculty of more than 600 members, 330 of whom are professors and associate professors and 200 of whom are lecturers. There are also many visiting professors, lecturers and teachers from a large number of countries, reflecting the wide range of specialist courses on offer.

BFSU is actively engaged in international exchange and co-operation and has established extensive academic links with 206 universities and educational institutions in 50 countries, and there are growing numbers of collaborative programmes and study abroad students. BFSU started to enrol overseas students in the 1950s and was one of the first universities to enrol scholarship students sponsored by the Chinese Government.

*“St Andrews affords the opportunity to gain an insider’s perspective on the Chinese education system and receive instruction in language and teaching theory from European and Chinese instructors. The experience has been invaluable for both my professional development and my academic interests. The balance of practical knowledge and linguistic theory will benefit my teaching in years to come.”*

**LUKE**  
Seattle, USA  
MLitt in ELT (Collaborative)



## **Masters in English Language Teaching (MLitt)**

The overall aim of the Masters programmes in ELT is to give students a solid foundation in language and linguistics, as well as language teaching and learning theories and methodologies. This work is further developed in Semester 2, with a strong emphasis on teaching and learning, linking theory to practice, with a particular focus on the classroom. Both Masters degrees are challenging programmes combining the theories of language acquisition and teaching methodology with their practical applications in the classroom. The MLitt in ELT (collaborative) and the MLitt in ELT (full time) give students the practical skills and confidence to teach within the context of their own countries.

## **Entrance Requirements**

Applicants for the MLitt should normally have a good undergraduate degree: a UK upper second class Honours degree or its equivalent. Applicants whose first language is not English must submit a TOEFL/IELTS certificate or its equivalent. See [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/elt/entry](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/elt/entry)

## **Organisation of Work**

You are allocated a supervisor, who directs and monitors your programme of work and supervises your dissertation. University guidelines stipulate that students and supervisors should be in regular contact, and in addition that your progress is subject, towards the end of each year, to an annual review by the departmental Postgraduate Committee. The Committee authorises your progress to the dissertation stage on the basis of grades achieved in the taught phase. As part of your programme you are expected to attend and contribute to a weekly postgraduate seminar, and also to attend the departmental ‘training and development’ seminars at which the speakers are normally visiting experts. These seminars are intended to enrich your intellectual experience, to provide a forum for the discussion of recent ideas and methods in language teaching and training, and to help enhance postgraduate solidarity.

## **Academic Staff**

Modules are taught by highly-qualified members of ELT staff whose wide and varied experience of different teaching and learning contexts ensures a mixed balance of language-learning theory with hands-on practice.



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## Taught Programmes

### MLitt in ELT (Collaborative) with Beijing Foreign Studies University, China

#### Programme Duration

One year (September to August) full time.

#### Location

Semester 1: Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) Beijing, People's Republic of China  
Semester 2 and dissertation: University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Scotland.

#### Course Structure

Semester 1: Beijing: three core modules taught at BFSU.

Semester 2: St Andrews: 60 credits from a range of modules taught at ELT, after which a piece of classroom research is conducted and written up as a 15,000-word dissertation.

#### Specific Modules (Semester 1: BFSU)

- *Descriptions and Analysis of English*
- *Foreign Language Education*
- *Schools of Linguistics*
- *Research Methodology (compulsory audit)*

#### Semester 2 (St Andrews)

Core Module:

- *Teaching and Learning* (including Methodology). This module provides a review of current practice in ELT. The focus is on instructed Second Language Acquisition and the interaction of teacher, learners and classroom materials.



Specific topic modules currently available:

- *Teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP)*. This module looks at the teaching of English as a second or foreign language in higher education settings. The focus is on identifying and meeting the specific needs of learners engaged in English medium study.
- *Teaching Young Learners (YLS)*. This module examines the difference in approach between teaching adults and teaching children, as well as the differences between teaching young learners below the age of 12 and teenagers, taking into consideration their social and cognitive development.
- *Teaching and Researching*. This module aims to help students develop a research mentality towards their classroom practice and continuing professional development. Such reflective practice is adopted by teachers who have the knowledge, ability and confidence to question, analyse and evaluate their teaching.
- *Testing and Evaluation*. This module evaluates the different approaches to testing and assessing second language ability. It also provides practice in the principled evaluation of classroom-based language tests.

The specific topic modules may vary annually, so please check individual module availabilities for the academic year when you plan to be here ([www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coursecatalogue](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coursecatalogue)).

## MLitt in ELT (Full Time)

### Programme Duration

One year (September to August) full time.

### Location

University of St Andrews, Scotland.

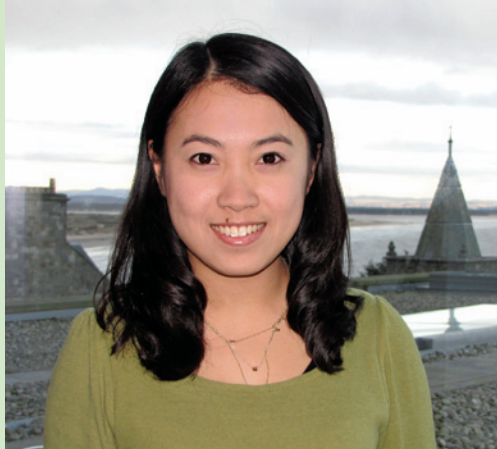
### Course Structure

Semester 1: three modules.

Semester 2: five modules, after which a piece of classroom research is conducted and written up as a 15,000-word dissertation.

*“The University of St Andrews is a perfect place for study. The courses here are quite practical and useful. A wide range of activities as well as in-session support are provided. Here you can meet the most prestigious and friendly staff who will help you out no matter what your problems are. With the help of them, you can feel the progress you are making every day. I love St Andrews.”*

**ZHICHAO**  
Dalian, China  
MLitt in ELT (Collaborative)



**The modules currently available are as follows.**

Specific Topic Modules (Semester 1):

- *Linguistics for Language Teachers*. This module provides an overview of English language systems as they are presented in teaching and learning materials, distinguishing between analysis for linguistic description and pedagogic use.
- *Teaching and Language* (including Second Language Acquisition (SLA)). This module provides the theoretical underpinning for decisions that ELT professionals take with regard to curriculum development, syllabus design and classroom practice.
- *The Context of English Language Teaching*. This module provides an overview of the history of ELT as well as the changing social and political context in which it has developed.

Specific topic modules (Semester 2):

- *Teaching and Learning* (including Methodology). This module provides a review of current practice in ELT. The focus is on instructed SLA and the interaction of teacher, learners and classroom materials.
- *Teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP)*. This module looks at the teaching of English as a second or foreign language in higher education settings. The focus is on identifying and meeting the specific needs of learners engaged in English medium study.
- *Teaching Young Learners (YLS)*. This module examines the difference in approach between teaching adults and teaching children, as well as the differences between teaching young learners below the age of 12 and teenagers, taking into consideration their social and cognitive development.
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W: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/elt/mlitt](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/elt/mlitt)

## Postgraduate Recruitment & Admissions

University of St Andrews, St Katharine's West,  
16 The Scores, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AX, Scotland, UK

T: +44 (0)1334 463325

F: +44 (0)1334 463330

E: [pgrecruitment@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:pgrecruitment@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## Online Prospectus, Subject Leaflets and Admissions information:

[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/pg](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/pg)

## Visiting Days

There will be two Visiting Days, 16 November 2011 and 21 March 2012, when you can look round the University and talk informally to staff about courses. Booking for these events is essential. For more information see the prospectus or:

[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/pg/visiting](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/pg/visiting)

This leaflet is available in Large Print, Braille or Audio on request to Print & Design: +44 (0)1334 463020



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