The University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Education

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MA(TESOL))

Outline of the eleven Elective Courses:

Elective Course 1: MAES7100 Literature in Language Teaching and Learning (6 credits)

This course focuses on the role of literature in the English Language curriculum and the issues related to using literature in the language classroom. It examines different literary genres (poetry, prose and drama) and the literary techniques associated with them, and addresses the texts of mass media and film. It also examines the ways in which language is used creatively in literary texts and considers appropriate methodologies and strategies for teaching language through literature.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 2: MAES7101 Analysis of Spoken and Written Discourse (6 credits)

Discourse analysis refers to *the study of language in its contexts of use*. Over the last three decades, there has been a fundamental shift in the study of language away from looking at de-contextualised language structures in isolated sentences or phrases and towards looking at language functioning as communication in real life contexts to achieve different purposes, including the study of how discourses construct different ideologies and identities. This course focuses on introducing to language teaching professionals the relevant concepts and methods in spoken and written discourse analysis.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 3: MAES7102 Teaching Reading in English as an Additional Language (6 credits)

This course aims to help candidates to develop an understanding of the related theory and principles in English as a second language (ESL) reading; a critical understanding of existing practices in this area; an interest in developing a possible topic for further investigation. Major topics in reading include reading as skills and strategies, the links between first and second language reading, and critical reading. Specific pedagogies for teaching reading, such as collaborative strategic reading, read-aloud and think-aloud will also be critically examined and implications drawn.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 4: MAES7103 Teaching Writing in a Second Language (6 credits)

This course aims to familiarize students with current theories and research on teaching writing to develop their understanding of how these ideas might be applied in the writing classroom. The course also aims to help students become more reflective practitioners by providing ways to create and evaluate courses, tasks and materials for teaching writing.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 5: MAES7105 Technology and English Teaching and Learning (6 credits)

This course prepares candidates to use information technology effectively in their professional practice within the field of teaching English as a second or foreign language. It explores some of the key issues in current uses of information technology (IT) in language teaching and learning. It looks in particular at concepts of Computer-Assisted Language Learning, network-based teaching and learning, and electronic literacy. It sets the use of technology within a pedagogical and sociocultural context particularly with reference to the teaching of English as a second or foreign language. No

previous experience of using technology in teaching is required.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 6: MAES7106 Testing and Assessment in TESOL (6 credits)

This course introduces candidates to the principles of testing and test evaluation most relevant to the teaching of English as a second or foreign language. It discusses testing in a range of contexts including formative and summative assessments, as well as the areas of self-assessment, classroom-based assessment and alternative assessments. The course includes an overview of the theory of language testing; key aspects of developing, scoring and reporting tests; test item analysis; ways in which tests contribute to assessment of student performance and issues related to the reliability and validity of tests.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 7: MAES7107 Autonomy and Language Learning (6 credits)

This course explores the major issues implicit in fostering autonomy in language learning, with specific reference to the English as a Second Language context. It includes a discussion of the theoretical grounding of the concept in the history of both general and language education and covers the learner-based, classroom-based, curriculum-based, resource-based and technology-based approaches to autonomy used within language teaching. The implications of these approaches for the changing roles of teachers and learners are explored.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 8: MAES7108 Corpora for Language Learning and Teaching (6 credits)

This elective course teaches students about the value of corpora to the learning of vocabulary and collocation, and how corpora can be used as both a reference and independent learning resource. The course also offers students insights into different corpora applications to English language teaching. In this course, students will be introduced to different corpora and are taught to look at how to search corpora, how to gain insights from the search results, how to build and annotate genre- and discipline-specific corpora of their own, and how to bring corpora into the classroom.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 9: MAES7109 Intercultural Communication (6 credits)

The course examines the relationship between intercultural communication, language use and context. It studies some key concepts such as intercultural communicative competence, culture shock and identity (re)construction, and explores methods for teaching intercultural communication in the classroom.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 10: MAES7110 Vocabulary Teaching and Learning (6 credits)

This elective is designed to help participants focus more clearly on English vocabulary acquisition and how to present words effectively to learners. We identify the kinds of words that learners need most, examine how we remember words and look at strategies for effective vocabulary learning. The course also suggests ways of assessing learners' word power and reviews technology-assisted approaches to vocabulary teaching such as the use of corpora and autonomous lexical development.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Course 11: MAES7111 English Language Teaching: Principles into Practice (6 credits)

Through this course students will develop their understanding of the processes of planning, implementing and reflecting on English Language lessons. Students will critically reflect on the ways in which theories and principles in Language education come into play in the Language classroom.

They will consider the constraints and opportunities teachers encounter in the classroom, addressing key issues such as classroom management, differentiation and motivation, and will discuss and develop practical pedagogical strategies for promoting effective teaching and learning within the classroom setting. The course will engage students in an ongoing collaborative process of exploration, and analysis of Language teaching processes through observation of teaching, development of lesson plans, engagement in teaching activities and critical reflection on their teaching and student learning.

Assessment: 100% coursework.