

University College London Department of Phonetics and Linguistics

MA Phonetics programme



Information, session 2004-2005

Aim

To equip students with a basic understanding of three core areas:

- general phonetics and phonology
- experimental phonetics
- phonetics and phonology of English.

Skills

The programme should result in your acquiring the following skills:

- the ability to present a hypothesis and to mount systematic and logical arguments for or against it.
- the ability to produce cogent, structured and professionally presented reports.
- the ability to access the wide range of information sources available to academic scholarship, for example, bibliographies, scientific and scholarly journals and on-line technology, as well as published books.
- the ability to carry out independent research.
- the ability to analyse phonetic data and to manipulate symbolic representational systems appropriately, in particular the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- the ability to make an accurate systematic phonetic transcription of English (and perhaps of another language or languages) from speech or from orthography, and an accurate impressionistic phonetic transcription of any human language from speech.
- the ability to present a consistent and well-organized description of the pronunciation of a language, set in the framework of general principles applying to all human languages.
- the ability to plan, undertake and analyse simple experiments in phonetics using instrumental methods.

Teaching

There will be a mixture of lectures, practical or backup classes, and tutorial groups.

- General phonetics: Wednesday and Thursday afternoons
- Experimental phonetics: Tuesdays
- English phonetics: Mondays

The course convenor is Prof. John Wells. Each student will be assigned a supervisor, who will set and mark assignments and oversee the dissertation.

Term One. Lectures start 4 October 2004 (except Acoustics of Speech and Hearing, see below Tuesdays).

Mondays

- 11:00 **English phonetics workshop.** Tutor: Jill House.
Room 3, 21 Gordon Square.
- 14:00 **Practical phonetics (English).** Tutor: Michael Ashby.
Room 114, Foster Court.
- 16:00 **English accents** (optional course). Tutor: John Wells.
Room 505, Dept of Mathematics (25 Gordon Street).

Tuesdays

- 09:00 **Acoustics of speech and hearing.** Tutor: Mark Huckvale. Haldane Lecture Theatre, Wolfson House.
NB: first lecture on Wednesday 29 Sep., 11:00; then Tuesdays from 12 Oct
- 15:30 **Phonetics laboratory session.** Tutors: Mark Huckvale, Andy Faulkner
Speech Sciences Laboratory, Wolfson House. (2 hours)

Wednesdays

- 12:00 **Phonological analysis.** Tutor: John Wells.
Room 3, 21 Gordon Square.
- 14:00 **General phonetics tutorial.** Tutors: Michael Ashby, John Wells, Jill House, John Maidment.
Room 3, 21 Gordon Square.
- 16:00 **Phonetics seminar.** Visiting speakers (some weeks only). Room 3, 21 Gordon Square.

Thursdays

- 10:00 **Practical phonetics (general).** Tutor: Michael Ashby.
Bentham House.
- 13:00 **Introduction to phonetics and phonology.** Tutors: Michael Ashby, John Maidment. Embryology LT.

See also the more comprehensive departmental timetable on the website: www.phon.ucl.ac.uk, then Information | for current students | Current timetables | Term 1.

The weeks starting 8 November 2004 and 14 February 2005 are **reading weeks** (no lectures or classes).

Term Two. Lectures start 10 January 2005

Mondays

- 10:00 **Phonology of English.** Tutor: John Wells.
Room 107, 25 Gordon Square.
- 11:00 **English phonetics workshop** and backup to
Phonology of English lecture. Tutor: Jill House.
Room 3, 21 Gordon Square.
- 12:00 **English intonation** (optional course). Tutor: John
Maidment. Room 107, 25 Gordon Square.
- 13:00 **Practical phonetics (English).** Tutor: Michael Ashby.
Room 107, 25 Gordon Square.
- 16:00 **English accents** (optional course). Tutor: John Wells.
Venue tba.

Other arrangements: as in term one.

Options

In consultation with your tutors, you must select an Option subject, one of

- English accents
- English intonation

(and possibly others). See timetable entries above.

Assessment

There will be constant feedback as the tutorial staff react to students' essays and exercises. The main evaluation of the MA is based on one three-hour examination for each of the core areas, a portfolio of work (typically two essays, amounting to 5,000 words in total, for the optional subject), tests of practical phonetic skills, and a 10,000-word dissertation written under supervision during the summer.

Written and practical examinations will be held in May-June 2005. The papers are 1 General phonetics and phonology, 2 Experimental phonetics, 3 Phonetics and phonology of English, 4 Option. The option is normally examined by two 3000-word essays.

The dissertation, not exceeding 10,000 words in length, must be submitted by 15 September 2005. The title must be submitted and approved by 1 May 2005.

J.C.Wells, revised 2004 09 28