



School of Language, Arts and Media



**Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Linguistics & English
Language Teaching**

Frequently Asked Questions

Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Linguistics & English Language Teaching

What are the programme requirements?

LN411	Advanced Language Analysis (previously LL426)
LN416	Language Acquisition and Multilingualism (previously LL416)
LN418	Integrating the Four Skills in English (previously LL418)
LN419	Technologies, Texts and Techniques for ELT (previously LL419)

What are the courses about?

LN411 Advanced Language Analysis (Semester 2)

This course provides advanced training in the analysis of language, focusing on the phonological, morpho-syntactic and semantic elements of English and Pacific languages. English teachers will learn to apply these analytic techniques to practical classroom approaches that will transform the teaching of English pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary in the context of the Pacific region. Students intending to pursue a research degree in Descriptive Linguistics will learn to apply these analytic techniques to a detailed description of one or more Pacific languages.

LN416 Language Acquisition and Multilingualism (Semester 2)

This course provides in-depth coverage of the way first and subsequent languages are acquired and learned, with specific reference to the Pacific context. The course addresses the acquisition of one or more languages in a non-school environment, as well as formal, classroom-based teaching and learning. Topics covered include the roles of input, motivation and explicit instruction within language learning, theoretical perspectives on bilingualism and multilingualism, models of bilingual and multilingual education, and different approaches to the teaching of vernaculars and languages of wider communication.

LN418 Integrating the Four Skills in English (Semester 1)

This course covers both theoretical and practical approaches to the teaching and assessment of English as it is used in academic contexts. It takes an integrated approach to what have traditionally been labelled the 'four skills' of reading, writing, listening and speaking, and helps teachers teach beyond the test to foster active users of English. It moves teachers away from a surface-level understanding of 'skills' and enables them to prepare curricula and assessments that will foster meaningful and relevant use of the language.

LN419 Technologies, Texts and Techniques for English Language Teaching (Semester 1)

This course is a very practical course that focuses on teaching strategies for the classroom. It provides hands-on experience working with innovative technologies to develop teachers' skills in the use of new tools when preparing and delivering the curriculum. It provides strategies for getting the most out of prescribed texts and textbooks, creating new texts based on learner needs, and transforming resource-poor teaching environments. It provides practical techniques for a range of elements that may include error correction, the promotion of fluency, and the integration of language and academic content from across the curriculum.

What does the programme aim to do?

The PG Diploma Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching is a professional training programme for English teachers, underpinned by a solid grounding in Applied Linguistics research. Its aims are threefold: (1) to enhance the teaching of English Language in primary and secondary schools of the USP region; (2) to upskill individual teachers by helping them develop a 'teacher toolkit' of classroom techniques, ICT skills and innovative pedagogical approaches; and (3) to provide a progression route to an MA in Applied Linguistics, thus building up regional research capacity in the field. The programme will focus particularly on the teaching of English. However, it is also relevant to teachers of other languages, including the vernacular and other 'introduced' languages such as French.

Does the programme aim to help me improve my own English proficiency?

No. The programme does not aim to improve your own level of English proficiency. You will be expected to have a high enough level of proficiency already to cope with the demands of postgraduate study. If you wish to improve your own English proficiency, you could consider enrolling in the [Intensive English Programme](#) or a [Cambridge English](#) preparation course.

How long does the programme take?

Full-time students can take two courses each semester, and complete the programme in one year. Part-time students can take one course each semester, and complete the programme in two years.

Where can I study?

Courses can be taken from any country in online mode. You will need a good internet connection in order to access the online materials, if you choose to study independently. There will also be a final exam in each course, for which you will need to attend your nearest USP campus. Those studying from outside the USP region should get in touch well in advance of the application deadline, so that we can work out logistical arrangements for exams and admin.

Students at Laucala Campus, Fiji, can attend face-to-face sessions in addition as part of a Blended offering.

How are the courses assessed?

Each course will be assessed through a series of coursework tasks (60%) and a final exam (40%).

What will I achieve by the end of the programme?

On successful completion of the programme, you will be awarded a postgraduate diploma. If you achieve a GPA of 3.0 or above (average Grade B), you will be eligible to apply for admission to an MA programme.

What are the entry requirements?

To meet the entry requirements, you must meet the following two conditions:

1. You must hold an undergraduate degree, with a GPA of at least 3.0, in one of the following programmes:
 - BA with a major in Linguistics
 - BA with a major in Literature & Language
 - BEd with a teaching subject in Literature & Language
 - BAGCED with a discipline major in Literature & Language
 - An equivalent programme from another institution
2. The above programme must include at least 4 Linguistics courses, with a GPA of 3.0 or above in these 4 courses (equivalent to Grade B)

USP Linguistics courses currently include LN111, LN118, LN211, LN216, LN311, LN317 and LN319.

If you graduated prior to 2010, you may have taken other courses that we will accept, such as LL124, LL212 and LL318. You should also note that LL course codes changed to LN in 2019.

If you do not meet these entry requirements:

1. If you have only taken 3 Linguistics courses, we may ask you to take a fourth 'qualifying' course and achieve a Grade B or above.
2. If your GPA is too low, we may ask you to take some additional undergraduate courses to raise your GPA. We will take teaching experience into account, but we do need to be sure that you will cope with postgraduate study, particularly if you haven't studied for some time.
3. In some circumstances, we may accept you onto your first postgraduate course as 'unclassified studies', before being allowed to enrol on the PG Diploma upon successful completion of this course. If you do not hold an undergraduate degree, you will not be able to enrol in this particular programme.

Please email fiona.willans@usp.ac.fj to check your eligibility if you are unsure. Provide your USP student number if you have one, or send a transcript of results if you have graduated from another institution.

How do I apply?

Please visit the [admissions](#) section of the USP website or contact the [Student Administrative Services](#) for assistance. When completing any application forms, make sure you specify the programme and field of study as follows:

Programme: Postgraduate Diploma

Field of study: Applied Linguistics & English Language Teaching.

Students may begin the PGDip Applied Linguistics & ELT in either Semester 1 or Semester 2 of any year. Application forms should be submitted well before the application deadline set by SAS.