



Waterford Institute *of* Technology
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LÁIRGE

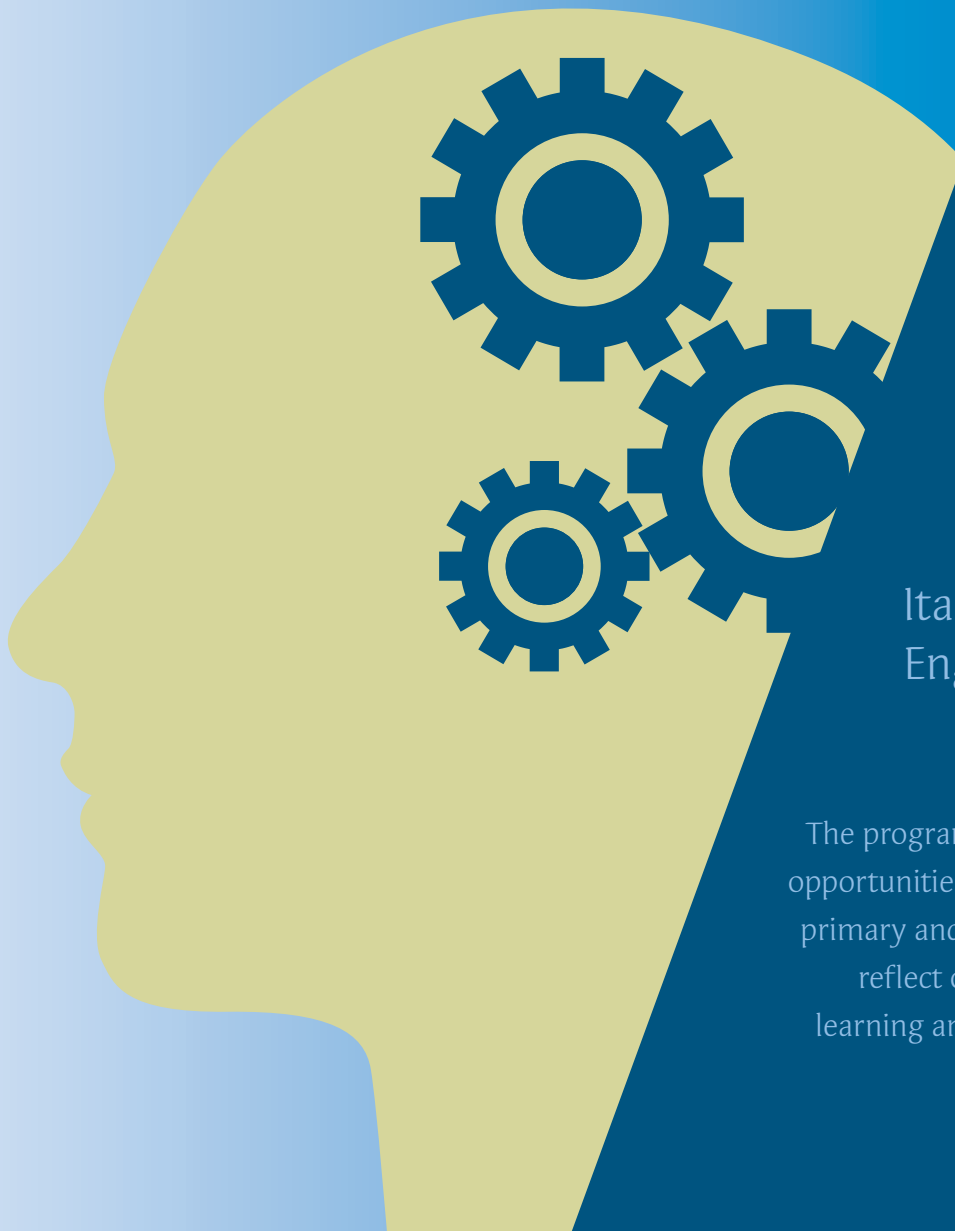
POSTGRADUATE

MA in Second Language Learning and Teaching

Department of Languages, Tourism and Hospitality Studies

LEVEL **9**

CODE: WD_HLALT_R



For teachers of Spanish, Italian, Irish, German, French, English as a Second Language and/or Foreign Language

The programme provides professional development opportunities for language teachers at primary, post-primary and third-level and emerges from a need to reflect on current issues in the field of language learning and teaching at national and international levels. Distance learning is available.

MA in Second Language Learning and Teaching

About our unique programme

The study of Second Language Acquisition theories is transferred through teaching methodologies to the development and evaluation of materials for the language teacher's own and specific context. Reflection is central to the programme.

We use a variety of assessment approaches. Continuous assessment, final written examination, dissertation but also project work, portfolio compilation, individual and group presentations, written reports and reflective diaries. The MA in Second Language Learning and Teaching, worth 90 credits, comprises seven taught modules and a dissertation, over four semesters, two evenings per week.

Distance learning is also available for this programme. Details regarding this can be obtained by contacting Dr. Áine Furlong on +353 (0)51 302067/302846 or emailing afurlong@wit.ie

Programme Outline

Year 1	Year 2
<p>Semester 1</p> <p>Second Language Acquisition Theories and Current Language Teaching Issues (10 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the principal theories that have defined the field of Second Language Acquisition• Appraisal of current language teaching and learning methodologies in Ireland and Europe• Review and development of materials <p>The Reflective Language Teacher (10 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing as reflective practitioners and encouraging reflective learning amongst your students• Exploring links between theory and practice• Applying insights to problem-solving, action research and materials development <p>Semester 2</p> <p>Cognitive Approaches to Second Language Learning (10 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A consideration of learning styles and gender identities• Exploration of a number of approaches including Content & Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)• Review and development of CLIL materials <p>Language and Culture (10 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of intercultural theories and research• The use of ethnographic research in language learning, including plurilingualism, pluriculturalism, tandem language learning• Review and development of materials <p>Educational Research Methods (Summer School) (5 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the research process, of the type of topics that constitute educational research and of the appropriate methodologies	<p>Semester 3</p> <p>Motivation and Learner Autonomy (10 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of the teacher-learner relationship and associated second language learning outcomes• Developing a motivational framework for self-evaluation• Exploring autonomous language learning modes <p>The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (10 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical review of the European Languages Portfolio• Critical reflection of assessment tools• Developing language assessment tools and examples of portfolio use in the language classroom <p>Semester 4</p> <p>Dissertation (25 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typically the dissertation focuses on a topic relevant to the language teacher e.g. Second Language acquisition, language learning/teaching methodologies, intercultural studies, action research in the language classroom

Career Opportunities

The course is recognised by the Department of Education and Science and teachers can benefit from the usual increments associated with Level 9 qualifications. The programme will also benefit teachers interested in gaining expertise in teaching English as an additional language and in language teaching in general.

Entry Requirements:

- Qualified teacher at primary level
- Qualified language teacher at post-primary level
- Language graduates with a minimum of two years' teaching experience
- Practising language teachers with a degree qualification other than in languages

Admissions queries contact:

Graduate Admissions
Registrar's Office
Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)51 302670
Email: pgadmissions@wit.ie

Academic queries contact:

Dr. Áine Furlong
Course Leader
Department of Languages Tourism and Hospitality Studies
Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)51 302067 / 302846
Email: afurlong@wit.ie

