



The University of Manchester

School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

MA Programme Handbook

Modern Languages and Cultures

2026-2027

**Programme Director:
Dr Vladimir Kapor**

Please note, some information is subject to change.

For updates, please check our web page:

<http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/studentintranet/postgraduatetaught>

This Programme Handbook contains information relevant to the MA Modern Languages and Cultures. Information relevant to all undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC) can be found in the School [Student handbook](#), which should be read and used as a reference in conjunction with this Handbook.

MA Modern Languages and Cultures 2026/27

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1. Postgraduate Study in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

[The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures](#) (SALC) is made up of seventeen different subject areas covering a diverse range of Arts and Languages disciplines.

Our work embraces the material, visual, linguistic, textual, social and performative dimensions of human society ranging from pre-historic times, through the classical and medieval periods, to the present day.

For students, we offer the advantages of belonging to a specific subject area combined with the extensive choice and variety of being within a large and multi-disciplinary school.

SALC combines the study of spoken and written languages as well as translation with a wide range of cultural research (in literature, screen studies, critical theory, history and politics). This opens up possibilities for exciting interdisciplinary work which goes beyond the study of 'national' cultures and reflects the impact of globalisation on our disciplines. Regular research and graduate seminars are held within the School. Attendance at such seminars forms an important part of initiation into the world of scholarly research and is a valuable opportunity for contact with leading scholars in your field.

The University of Manchester is one of the largest in the country, and is able to offer excellent facilities to postgraduate students. [The University of Manchester Library](#) has internationally renowned holdings in Translation and Interpreting Studies and many of the major European, Middle Eastern and East Asian languages and literatures. Its collections, many of which are housed at [The John Rylands Library](#) on Deansgate, include many rare texts and provide an excellent base for advanced study and research.

Students on the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures are part of the Department's vibrant postgraduate community, along with those on the MA in Translation and interpreting studies and the MA in Intercultural studies run by the Centre for Translation and Intercultural studies (CTIS). In addition, the University Language Centre, based within SALC, provides advanced facilities for enhancing linguistic skills where required; it also gives access to European satellite broadcasts and has a [video and media library](#).

2. MA Modern Languages and Cultures

The MA Modern Languages and Cultures is a research-focused course that enables students to pursue specialist masters-level research into the cultures associated with the following language areas: Chinese; French; German; Italian; Japanese; Middle Eastern; Russian and Eastern European; and Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American. 'Cultures' is understood in the broadest sense, and students may choose to specialise in any area covered by the unparalleled breadth of research expertise in languages and cultures within the School. Students may wish to specialise in historical, literary, religious, or artistic aspects of relevant languages and language areas, from the pre-modern period to the present day. The course gives students intensive training in research and in related high-level transferable skills in preparation for PhD studies at research universities. It is also aimed at students who will be heavily involved in research-based activities outside academia (e.g., in public- and private-sector cultural institutions such as museums, galleries, charities, foundations, festivals and biennales, and bodies of cultural diplomacy).

The programme aims to enhance students' specialist knowledge and their intellectual, analytical and research skills so that they are in a position to undertake doctoral research, should they choose to do so. It also develops their ability to work effectively and independently in any academic or research context and prepares them for specific careers that require work on small or large-scale research projects. We aim to produce graduates of high professional employability and broad liberal education. The programme represents an important contribution to social responsibility by educating graduates about linguistic, religious and cultural differences and by preparing them to exercise social and academic leadership.

2.1. ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

2.1.1. Admissions

The normal requirement for admission to the MA is an upper second-class Honours degree or higher (or its overseas equivalent), in a relevant subject. Applicants must also submit a short statement (maximum one side A4), indicating their intended area of academic specialisation for the MA, and including a potential research area for their dissertation and evidence of preparatory study at undergraduate level.

Students who apply from overseas with non-UK qualifications should send a copy of their degree certificate, a transcript of their degree results with an officially authorised translation, and an indication of the marking scale relating to their degree. English language scores of IELTS 7 (with 7.0 minimum in the writing element of the test) or TOEFL 100 (internet-based test) (with a minimum writing score of 25) are required for students whose first language is not English.

Candidates interested in MA study should in the first instance contact the Postgraduate Admissions Officer: masalc@manchester.ac.uk

2.1.2. MA Structure

The **MA in Modern Languages and Cultures** consists of a total of 180 credits, divided as follows:

Taught Component

- **taught core course units** (totalling 60 credits)

LALC 61011 Research Training in Languages & Cultures (30 credits)

and 30 credits of taught MA units with a relevant theoretical component, usually:

LALC 70011 Theories and Methods in Modern Languages I (15 credits)

LALC 70022 Theories and Methods in Modern Languages II (15 credits)

- **Optional course units** (totalling 60 credits)

- **Research essays** (totalling 30 credits)

In consultation with their supervisor, students may identify two specialist areas of study, each of which will form the basis for an individually supervised research essay of 3,000 words.

Optional taught units

In consultation with the programme director, students will select up to 60 credits of optional taught units. This may include enhanced UG units in the department of Modern languages, or up to 30 MA level units in SALC.

Research Component

- **long dissertation** (60 credits)

A provisional dissertation topic will also be agreed with the student's supervisor at the beginning of the programme, although it may develop and change during the course of the programme. The completed dissertation will be 12,000 words in length.

2.1.3. Life Cycle of an MA

Full-time MA students take the MA programme over **12 months**. The taught course units and research essays are completed over two semesters and the dissertation is written between February and September. The dissertation must be submitted in the first week of September (**exact date to be confirmed**)

- **Semester 1** (27 September 2026 – 31 January 2027)

Research Training in Languages and Cultures

Theories and Methods in Modern Languages I

Plus optional taught units which may include Research Essay I

- **Semester 2** (1st February – 11 June 2027)

Theories and Methods in Modern Languages II

Plus optional taught units which may include Research Essay II

- **Dissertation** (whole year)

Part-time MA students (2025 entry) take the taught course units over four semesters (in two academic sessions) and submit the dissertation by September of the year following the end of the taught course units (**the programme lasts for 24 months in total**). The schedule for part-time students registering in September 2025 will be as follows:

- **Year 1** (22 September 2025 –12 June 2026)
 - Theories and Methods in Modern Languages I (15 credits) - Semester 1
 - Theories and Methods in Modern Languages II (15 credits) - Semester 2
 - Plus optional taught units (30 credits)
- **Year 2** (September 2026 – June 2027)
 - Research Training in Languages and Cultures (30 credits) –semester 1
 - Plus optional taught units (30 credits)
- The **dissertation** must be submitted in **September 2027**, date to be confirmed.

2.1.4. Part-time Study

Part-time study is strongly supported and actively facilitated in the timetabling of teaching hours for the MA, wherever possible. However, prospective students should note that even part-time study requires a significant commitment of time, and that we do not recommend combining part-time study with a full-time job. We encourage students who are considering taking the programme part-time to talk to us before applying, so that we can discuss options. Students should normally arrange with their employers to have at least two working days free per week to study for the MA.

2.1.5. Assessment and Feedback

The pass mark for MA coursework and the dissertation is 50%. The pass mark for the Postgraduate Diploma is 40%.

In line with the University's Policy on Feedback to Students, where there is further assessment to be completed for a unit, all markers aim to provide feedback to students within 15 working days of submission. This will normally take the form of individualised feedback and an internally agreed, provisional mark. Where appropriate, course unit conveners may opt to supplement individual feedback with generic formative feedback which may be made available to students before they receive their individualised feedback and provisional marks.

Once internally agreed marks have been issued to students, they can still be changed by external examiners. Confirmed marks will not be made available to students until after the relevant meeting of the Examination Board.

All assignments on this programme fall under the "AI Minimal" category. For a detailed description of this category and general guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in assessed work, please consult the University of Manchester's [AI in Teaching and Learning Policy](#)

2.1.6. Coursework Submission and Late Submission Penalty

Full details on how to submit your work can be found in the School's [Student Handbook](#). Please familiarise yourself with the procedures before your submission date.

The University uses electronic systems for the purposes of detecting plagiarism and other forms of academic malpractice and for marking. Such systems include Turnitin, the plagiarism detection service used by the University and accessed via Canvas.

As part of the formative and/or summative assessment process, you will be asked to submit electronic versions of your work via Canvas. You must submit this work within the required timescales, noted in this handbook.

Please note that when work is submitted to Canvas, it may be copied and then stored in a database to allow appropriate checks to be made.

Guidelines for using the submission inbox to submit coursework can be found under the 'Assessment' link in a course unit's Canvas space

Late Submission

Please see the School late submission penalty information in the Student Handbook [here](#)

If you are registered on units outside of the School, you should ensure that you are aware of the penalties that will be imposed for late course work submission for that School. Schools may operate different penalty schemes for late submission.

Failure of a course unit due to late submission

Any student who fails the course unit due to late submission, at the discretion of the Examination Board, may be permitted to use their submitted work in the same manner as a resubmission following failure with the mark recorded as 40R (or 30R for programmes with a pass mark of 40%) with no further opportunity for resubmission in line with regulations.

2.1.7. School Policy on Word Limits

All subject areas have agreed assessment lengths for written assessments (such as essays, reports, etc.) within their degree programmes. At each level the target word count or range for a written piece is indicative of the optimum length required to compose a successful essay at that level, and is designed to correspond as closely as possible to the weighting that the assessment has within the course unit.

The purpose of enforcing word limits is (a) to ensure parity and fairness by creating a level playing field; (b) to help students produce well-focused and cogent written work; (c) to instil the discipline essential for real-life writing tasks, where word limits are often rigid; and (d) to ensure that students acquire the ability to edit their writing effectively and cut away inessential material, skills invaluable both for academic work and the workplace.

- Students must observe the word limit specified for each assessment.
THE UPPER LIMIT IS AN ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM AND MUST NOT BE EXCEEDED (THERE IS NO '10% RULE')
- The word count for each piece of written work must be displayed clearly on the first page.
- 'Word count' is here defined as including quotations and the footnotes or endnotes in the essay itself. It does not include the bibliography or any appendices. Appendices are for supporting, illustrative material only; they may not be used to elaborate or extend the argument.
- Material that exceeds the upper limit will not be read or considered in the marking.

It is not expected that staff will check individual submissions unless staff are concerned that the stipulated length has been exceeded. In such cases, markers may request electronic copies of work in order to verify the word count.

MA dissertations must indicate the word count at the bottom of the contents page. All other coursework exercises must indicate the word count at the top right-hand side of the first page. Students must remember, when calculating word counts using word-processing software, to include footnotes and endnotes in the calculation.

Failure to indicate the word count, or the provision of a false word count, may lead to disciplinary action. The School reserves the right to request an electronic copy of any work submitted, so that word counts may be checked by examiners.

When work exceeding the word limit is marked, the mark given on the feedback form will include the appropriate penalty. The examiners' feedback form will indicate how the penalty has been calculated.

2.1.8. Extensions to Submission Dates

Extensions to the submission dates for submitted coursework (assessed essays and dissertations) may be sought where circumstances, outside of students' control, will delay the completion and submission by the published date.

Please note, individual course unit tutors cannot grant extensions to deadlines.

Please read the School policy on Mitigating Circumstances in the section 8 of the [Student Handbook](#).

2.1.9. Diploma and Certificate Level

For students on the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures, the Postgraduate Diploma and the Postgraduate Certificate are possible exit points from the programme. Students registered for the MA who do not complete the dissertation may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma, provided they have completed 120 credits at a pass mark of 40%. Students completing only 60 credits' worth of taught course units (at a pass mark of 40%) may be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate.

2.1.10. Student Representation

MA Modern Languages and Cultures Staff-Student Liaison Group

All students on the MA are invited at least once per semester to a meeting of the staff-student liaison group. This group provides a forum for dialogue between staff and students' representatives, so that issues relating to MA and student development can be discussed. These may include, for example, the consideration of student feedback. The Programme Director will contact all students early in Semester 1 to schedule the meetings.

SLLC Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Committee

MA Modern Languages and Cultures student representatives are also involved in the School PGT Committee, whose members are staff and student representatives from the different Subject Areas in the School.

The School PGT Committee is directly responsible for admissions procedures, regulations and student progress. Student representatives are invited to raise issues relating to their programme in the context of this meeting.

2.1.11 Academic and Pastoral Support

A student's supervisor normally acts as his/her academic adviser, and s/he will meet with the supervisor early in Semester 1. The supervisor will be available at advertised office hours each week or by appointment during term time to advise on accessing any appropriate University support services. Academic advisers can also offer advice and guidance in matters relating to academic work.

If a student experiences difficulties or has questions about a particular course unit, in the first instance s/he should approach the relevant course unit tutor or the adviser/supervisor. If a student wishes to meet the course unit tutor, the student should e-mail him/her to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. The Programme Director is also available to discuss any issues students may wish to raise about the programme as a whole. Again, students should e-mail to make an appointment in advance.

Student Support and Guidance Service

The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures [Student Support Hub](#) is a support service of information and advice on matters relating to your academic work, progress and personal well-being. It is part of a network of student support services across the University and consists of a small team of advisers.

The content of discussions is varied, including thoughts about changing programme, anxiety about coping with studies, time management, examination problems or the impact of outside events on a student's studies. If an adviser is unable to help a student directly, then the adviser will normally be able to recommend someone who can.

To make an appointment to see an adviser, call into the Student Support Hub, (Lower Ground floor, Samuel Alexander Building (next to the Lime Cafe), email salc.hub@manchester.ac.uk or telephone 0161 529 3348.

The Student Support and Guidance Service also operates a drop-in service during term-time when prior appointments are not needed. Times will be available at the Teaching and Learning Reception and on the door of the Student Support and Guidance Office (Room A15, Samuel Alexander Building).

Consult your [My Manchester](#) portal for further sources of advice and information on:

- IT training courses
- Library skills training.

2.1.12. Academic and Professional References

Students will likely require a reference for employers or further study during or after the MA. Staff are happy to oblige, but writing a reference takes some time. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the referee is given accurate information about the programme or job for which the student is applying.

If there is a form to be completed, students should make sure the referee receives it in good time, and that the necessary parts have been filled out fully and accurately. Students should usually provide a CV to help the referee write the reference. Lecturers are perfectly within their rights to decline to write references if, for example, the application is poorly prepared or unrealistic, or if the student is making multiple applications with no particular focus.

Referees are expected to be honest in their assessment. In nominating a referee, a student should make sure to approach the best-placed person to comment on the student's skills and performance.

2.1.13 Keeping in Touch

We like to keep in touch with our students after graduation, both because it is interesting to hear about the exciting jobs that our graduates go on to do, and because it enables us to send students employment opportunities that we receive.

Please contact us after graduation to be included in our portfolio of graduate profiles, some of which are made available on our website.

2.2. ACADEMIC ASPECTS

2.2.1. Aims and Learning Outcomes of the Research-Route MA Languages and Cultures

Aims

1.	enhance students' capacity to systematically engage in advanced research in modern languages and cultures, both on an independent basis and in collaboration with their peers, and thereby to prepare students for further academic study and/or employment in the field.
2.	facilitate the study of a comprehensive range of specialist areas across modern languages and cultures.
3.	foster students' skills in critically evaluating current and advanced scholarship across modern languages and cultures, to develop critiques of that scholarship, as well as developing the ability to interrogate their own work and that of their peers.

Intended Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge and Understanding

On graduating from the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures programme students should be able to:	
A1.	demonstrate a critical and conceptual grasp of contemporary, theoretical and historical approaches to subjects across modern languages and cultures.
A2.	demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of specialised areas of modern languages and cultures.
A3.	demonstrate a critical awareness of contemporary social and political contexts within areas across modern languages and cultures.

B. Intellectual Skills	
On graduating from the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures programme students should be able to:	
B1.	analyse and evaluate current problems and critical debates in the field of modern languages and cultures.
B2.	synthesise information from a range of sources.
B3.	present a coherent and compelling academic argument, showing evidence of independent and critical judgement.
B4.	solve research problems with a high degree of imagination and critical insight.
B5.	undertake sustained and independent research for their dissertation.

C. Practical Skills	
On graduating from the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures programme students should be able to:	
C1.	plan, coordinate and execute projects engaging with modern languages and cultures, and dissertations.
C2.	search, retrieve and analyse information from a range of specialist and academic sources.
C3.	communicate project objectives and plans in written and verbal form, and demonstrate critical insight into the process.
C4.	understand and employ appropriate academic conventions for presentation of written work.

D. Generic and Graduate Skills	
On graduating from the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures programme students should be able to:	
D1.	communicate effectively in academic writing exercises and seminars.
D2.	search, retrieve and analyse information from a variety of sources.
D3.	manage time and work to deadlines.
D4.	exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
D5.	use the appropriate IT technologies.
D6.	work effectively as a member of a team.

1.1.1. Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

The teaching, learning and assessment methods for the MA in Modern Languages and Cultures match the aims of the programme to prepare students to undertake original and independent research in a chosen specialist field in language-based studies. On the core research training and conceptual units, students are introduced to key skills, methodologies, and theoretical concepts in common lectures for the whole cohort of students. Students then apply those core skills and concepts to their chosen areas of research specialism in a series of exercises and projects undertaken within that common framework: typically short, practical skills exercises in the research training module and longer critical and evaluative essays in the conceptual units. As part of the research training unit, all students will also complete a longer literature review on a specialist topic relating to their proposed dissertation, as well as a dissertation proposal.

Students also benefit from specialist one-to-one supervision for the preparation of their two research essays, one in each semester. Working to a programme of reading and research derived in consultation with the supervisor and with specific and agreed milestones, these pilot research projects will produce one 3,000-word essay in each case and further the process of preparation for the extended research dissertation. The essays allow the student to engage in a sustained and detailed way with the existing scholarship in a more specific area of their chosen field and to develop an independent and increasingly original position in relation to it. Annotated bibliographies and plans will be assessed formatively as part of the genesis of the completed research essays.

In the second semester students will begin work on the extended research dissertation which is completed over the summer. Building on the conceptual and methodological skills acquired in the taught core of the programme, together with the preparatory work in the research essays and literature review, students will work under one-to-one supervision to identify, plan and conduct a research project leading to the MA dissertation. The scale of that dissertation will give the students scope to develop a substantial independent piece of scholarship, in preparation for a doctoral project or a research career outside of academia.

1.1.2. Programme Structure

TAUGHT COMPONENT	RESEARCH COMPONENT
120 credits	60 credits
Research Training (30 credits) Theories and Methods in Modern Languages I and II (30 credits) Optional taught units (60 credits)	Long dissertation of 12,000 words

(Taught units and Research Essays I and II)

As a research-focused programme, the MA Modern Languages and Cultures provides a common framework within which students can put together a tailor-made programme of study and research appropriate to their chosen area of specialist master's-level research.

All students will normally take the same taught units, with specialisation built into the assessment tasks which are applied to their particular research specialism. The Research Training unit is front-loaded in semester 1 in order to provide a foundation for the independent research which is given increasing emphasis over the course of the programme. In the same unit, students will complete a literature review in the field of their intended dissertation topic to provide the essential research context for their subsequent work on the programme and a dissertation proposal. The taught part of the programme also provides conceptual training in the two Critical Concepts units which provide an introduction to some of the most important theoretical concepts underpinning research in the humanities generally and language-based disciplines more specifically. The coursework in these units provides the opportunity to apply those theoretical ideas critically to the particular area in which students intend to specialise in the dissertation. From this point on, the programme provides a framework for increasing specialisation towards the extended research dissertation, in particular through the two optional supervised research essays which build logically to the dissertation itself, both in the specific knowledge and understanding they provide and in the opportunity to develop and apply relevant research methods and theoretical concepts. In this way, the extended dissertation is the logical culmination of the programme, a substantial piece of academic research supported by an established process of research supervision and the specific expertise of an academic supervisor.

CORE TAUGHT COMPONENT (60 CREDITS)

SEMESTER 1		
Course Unit Title	Unit Code	Credits
Research Training in Languages and Cultures	LALC 61011	30
Theories and Methods in Modern Languages I	LALC70011	15
SEMESTER 2		
Course Unit Title	Unit Code	Credits
Theories and Methods in Modern Languages II	LALC70022	15

OPTIONAL TAUGHT COMPONENT (30 CREDITS)

SEMESTER 1		
Course Unit Title	Unit Code	Credits

Optional taught units	XXXX	varies
SEMESTER 2		
Course Unit Title	Unit Code	Credits
Optional taught units	XXXX	varies

RESEARCH COMPONENT – 60 CREDITS

SEMESTER 2 and SUMMER		
Course Unit Title	Unit Code	credits
Long Dissertation	LALC 61040	60

2.2.2. Support for Student Learning and Development

Induction activities are organised at a School level and include both induction into academic structures and activities to help students integrate into the School and University (e.g., a welcome reception). A dedicated induction session for MA Modern Languages students will introduce students specifically to their Programme Director and to the elements unique to the research-route programme. Students will also meet their supervisors for a one-to-one session in induction week, as the first meeting in the academic advising programme. At that meeting students will fill out the Skills and Experience Questionnaire and begin to discuss their dissertation topics, as well as discuss elements of the Personalised Learning Plan, based on the outcomes of the questionnaire. With these documents, students will work closely with their supervisors to put together coherent programmes of research, planning research projects both in the core modules and the supervised research essays, and agreeing a programme of research training, all of which is intended to build logically to the extended research dissertation. The programme director retains an overview of dissertation planning and supervision, monitoring that appropriate milestones have been met.

Normally, a student's supervisor will act as his/her academic adviser, providing guidance and monitoring of personal and academic development for all students, and international students become familiar with the British academic system, as well as easing the transition of those who have not entered the programme immediately after their undergraduate degree.

2.3. Course Unit Descriptions

LALC 61011	Research Training in Languages and Cultures
30 credits	Semester 1

Convenor	Dr Vladimir Kapor
Synopsis	This unit will introduce students to various methodological problems which define academic research and to the specific skills and tools with which to deal with them. The course will be divided into three main blocks, each focusing on a core set of research skills. Topics covered will include: how to compile specific and detailed critical bibliographies, how to write academically, how to formulate a research question, how to plan a dissertation, how to review literature critically, how to use electronic resources, and how to deliver oral presentations in form of 'research papers'. Theoretical points will be introduced as appropriate, but the course will largely be of a more practical nature, giving students the opportunity to develop core research skills and to reflect critically on their own research competences.
Teaching	This unit will be taught in 10 weekly seminars/workshops of two hours in Semester 1, supported by three individual supervision sessions. In addition, students will attend supplementary training sessions and research seminars as agreed with their supervisor.
Assessment	▪ Assignment 1 (50%): Literature review of 2,000 words ▪ Assignment 2 (50%): Research training portfolio of 2,500 words

LALC70011	Theories and Methods in Modern Languages I
15 credits	Semester 1
Convenor	Dr Ignacio Aguiló
Synopsis	This course unit is divided into 5 teaching blocks, each comprising one lecture and one seminar. Students will be introduced to a range of theories and methods such as decolonial studies, sensory humanities, arts and power, and affect theory that underpin language-based research in the humanities. It introduces students to the development of such theories and methods and how to apply them critically. Each of the five blocks is taught by a specialist in the relevant theories and methods. In addition to its theoretical focus, the unit accommodates practical examples of uses of these theories and methods, allowing students to apply them to their own research specialisms and encouraging them to develop a critical perspective on the assumptions underlying their research. This module is team taught by staff in Modern Languages and Cultures and the precise content of seminar topics may vary from year to year depending on staff availability.

Teaching	This unit will be taught over 5 blocks comprising one 2-hour lecture + one 2-hour seminar. 1 X one-hour introductory seminar will be held at the beginning of semester 1 Students will be expected to come to class having prepared the primary theoretical readings set out in the detailed course unit guide.
Assessment	▪ Essay (70%): 2,000-word essay ▪ 2 X Article Reviews (30%): 500-words each

LALC 70022	Theories and Methods in Modern Languages II
15 credits	Semester 2
Convenor	Dr David Bailey
Synopsis	LALC70022 is the second part of the Theories and Methods in Modern Languages research training unit. Students will be introduced to a different set of theories and methods such as research in gender and queer studies, history and memory and postcolonial approaches to translation. This course unit, like LALC70011 is divided into 5 teaching blocks, each comprising one lecture and one seminar taught by a specialist. The skills acquired in this unit will help students develop theoretically sophisticated projects. As for LALC70011, the topics covered may slightly vary from year to year depending on staff availability.
Teaching	This unit will be taught over 5 blocks comprising one 2-hour lecture + one 2-hour seminar. 1 X one-hour introductory seminar will be held at the beginning of semester 2 Students will be expected to come to class having prepared the primary theoretical readings set out in the detailed course unit guide.
Assessment	▪ Essay (70%): 2,000-word essay ▪ 2 X Article Reviews (30%): 500-words each

LALC 61021 LALC 61032	Research Essay I and II
2 x 15 credits	Semester 1 and Semester 2
Tutor	Allocated according to topic

Synopsis	These units will allow students to complete a supervised research project in their chosen area of specialisation, supported by a programme of reading agreed with their supervisor. Using the research and conceptual skills developed in the taught units, students will identify a research problem in their area of specialism and then design and pursue an independent essay project in response to that problem. As such, the unit aims to: introduce students to specialist knowledge in their chosen area of research specialisation
	- familiarise students with the state of the art in the scholarship relating to their chosen area of research specialisation - help students to develop a critical perspective on their chosen area of research specialisation - provide students with experience undertaking a pilot research project, applying skills and concepts encountered in the taught part of the programme.
Teaching	Small-scale supervision (usually one-to-one) on a fortnightly basis, totalling six supervisory meetings. At the beginning of the unit and reviewed in advance of each supervisory meeting, students and supervisors will agree a programme of reading and of specific research tasks building towards the final research essay.
Assessment	Semester 1: One essay of 3,000 words Semester 2: One essay of 3,000 words

For confirmation of coursework submission deadlines, please refer to the deadlines as stated in your individual course unit outlines/handbooks

3. Useful Contacts

Academic Contacts		
Programme Director	Dr Vladimir Kapor vladimir.kapor@manchester.ac.uk	
Administrative Contacts		
Student Hub	salc.hub@manchester.ac.uk	