

A037: Lecturer in Language Testing

Further Information

The Department of Linguistics and English Language (LAEL) is the largest Linguistics Department in England, with 32 staff entered in the last Research Assessment Exercise. It has thriving undergraduate degrees in English Language and in Linguistics admitting about 110 FTE students each year, several MA degrees in various areas of English language teaching and language study, including new distance degrees, and one of the largest PhD programmes in the university, with about 160 students. It is internationally known for research in such areas as English Language Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Corpus Linguistics, Discourse Studies, Sociolinguistics, and Literacy Studies. For applicants from outside the UK, it should be noted that the title 'Lecturer' is equivalent to an assistant professor in the North American system.

The post holder will join an internationally-known group in Language Testing, a group that includes Charles Alderson, Dianne Wall, and Tineke Brunfaut. Professor Alderson has done some of the most influential work in the field of Language Testing, including key books, editorship of the journal Language Testing, editorship of the Cambridge University Press series on language assessment, and leadership of many funded projects and evaluations on testing. Dr. Wall has conducted a five-year study of TOEFL and a number of other projects on large-scale testing, and is now Head of Examinations Research and Development at Trinity College London. The Language Testing group offers a highly successful distance MA in Language Testing, a summer school, and a weekly seminar series.

Members of the group are part of the wider group in English Language Learning, Teaching and Assessment. The department offers two on-campus MAs in this area, one for experienced teachers (MA TESOL) and one for students just starting out in teaching (MA TEFL), and a new distance MA TESOL. These are in addition to its distance MA in Language Testing. Other researchers in the group specialize in such areas as task-based language learning, second language learning, and management of language teaching programmes.

The post holder will contribute to MA courses on Language Testing and on TEFL and TESOL more generally, will share the work of convening some of these courses, and will supervise PhD students, after training and mentoring. The department gets many applications from prospective PhD students, drawn by Lancaster's reputation in this area, and it has been very successful in supervision, producing award-winning PhDs. The post holder is expected to have research under way, including publications suitable for the Research Excellence Framework in 2012. Beyond that, they will have a research career leading to highly-cited outputs and competition for research funding. The department has research support networks to develop, monitor, and mentor the research of all its members.

Lancaster University is part of the '94 Group' of research intensive small universities. It regularly ranks in the top 20 universities in the UK for research, and in the top 200 in the world. Founded in the 1960s, its physical appearance has recently been transformed by a large-scale programme of building and refurbishment – including a new home for the Linguistics Department. The university is about two miles south of the town, and many staff members bicycle to work.

Lancaster is a small city of about 60,000, with an attractive historic centre of stone buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries, a seaside resort at Morecambe, and a lively bi-weekly market and many local shops. It is just west of the moors of Bowland Forest, and about an hour from the centre of the Lake District. By train it is 60 minutes to Manchester, 80 minutes to Manchester airport, and two and a half hours to London.