CONTENTS

1- INTRODUCTION

In 1430H/ 2009, the Department of English Language (DEL) came about as the result of the re-structuring of the College of Education at King Faisal University. Within the College of Education, for twenty-five years the department operated under the name of the Department of Foreign Languages, and naturally focused on pedagogical issues and teaching English in Arabic context.

The new department, The Department of English Language, which is now part of the College of Arts, has shifted its focus to new areas of research. The shift has two main implications. The Department is open to a wide variety of branches and areas in English Language and Linguistics. It can also home more students with different interests. The M.A. program focuses on English Language and issues related to English in the local context, which will naturally lay the foundation for a better understanding of English and Arabic Islamic cultures, and which will contribute to enhancing positive dialogue between the two.

2- BACKGROUND

Thousands of students graduated from the Department of Foreign Languages within the College of Education. The expansion in Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does necessarily lead to a parallel expansion in programs of graduate studies. In this context, the M.A. in English and Linguistics offers opportunities for learning and research in English language and issues related to English in local context. The new program keeps pace with the shift from purely pedagogical concerns to wider issues of English language, translation and linguistic applications.

The new English Language Department has a prosperous outlook in its new environment of the College of Arts, in which it can collaborate with the departments of Arabic, Sociology, History and Media Studies. The department has a deeply-rooted experience in teaching English cultivating research. Currently it has a number of specialists in English Language and Linguistics:

1- Two professors

2- Four associate professors

3- Six Assistant professors

4- Twelve staff members doing research (Master and Ph.D. degrees) in Saudi Arabia, Britain, The United States and Australia.

3- VISION

To Be a World Class Research Based Excellence
Academic Program in English Language and Linguistics

4- MISSION

To train and produce highly qualified scholars of English language and Linguistics and to produce excellent research by applying knowledge to investigate English-related issues.

5- Program Rationale

The Department of English Language has successfully run an M.A. Program entitled Applied Linguistics (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). The pedagogical overtone of that program cannot be missed, a fact which reflects the history of the department as it operated within the College of Education. The old program is still needed, but the present program operates in a different context and has a wider appeal. The reasons for offering the M.A. in English Language and Linguistics include the following:

1- There is a need to widen the scope of study and the expertise covered by the graduate programs offered by the DEL.

2- There is a need to address English language issues outside pedagogical concerns.

3- There is a need to keep abreast with the changes of the academic environment in the new College of Arts.

4- There is a need to prepare graduates who are tuned to the needs of society and local job market.

5- There is a need to encourage researchers in the DEL, and to offer opportunities to scholars who would like to study English at home.

6- OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the new M.A. program are based on the objectives of the new Department of English Language in the newly established College of Arts. The emphasis is mainly on advancing knowledge of English language and English research culture. The students are expected to have knowledge and training in:

1- Advanced knowledge of various theories and background of the main branches of English Language and Linguistics.

2- Content-related areas addressing issues and all applied studies including Corpus Linguistics, Forensic Linguistics, Language Learning, Evaluation and Language Planning and Translation.

3- Research in areas related to the knowledge domains of the program addressing locally-relevant issues.

7- ACADEMIC PROGRAMS CONSULTED

The plan has made use of standards and practices adopted and advocated in a number of institutional bodies. This main thrust of the program, however, reflects King Faisal University orientation and expansion of educational opportunities to a wider pool of learners and a wider range of specializations. In particular, the alignment with international academic institutions is seen in offering courses which focus

on areas in the fields which have direct relevance to English language in Arabic context in the Middle East. These areas include 1) English language and Core linguistics, 2) Translation, 3) Language Varieties, Corpus Linguistics, and Lexicology and Lexicography. In this sense, the program combines rigorous descriptive power and investigation of various local manifestations of English-related issues. The institutions consulted include the following.

1- *Unified Regulations on Graduate Studies in Saudi Universities,* Council of Higher Education.

2- King Faisal University Decrees and Decisions on Graduate Studies.

3- The Saudi Commission for Academic Assessment and Accreditation.

4- The newly developed B.A. program currently taught at the Department of English Language, College of Arts, King Faisal University.

5- The M.A. program in Applied Linguistics which has been offered to students for the last fifteen years by the Department of Foreign Language (Now re-named Department of English Language).

6- The Department of English Language and Literature, College of Arts, King Saud University (personal communication).

7- College of Languages and Translation's academic plan (www.ksu.edu.sa retrieved 11.3.2009).

8- The Department of English Language and Literature, College of Arts, King Abdulaziz University (King Abdulaziz University, College of Arts, Academic Plan, see Appendix).

9- The College of Arts at Birmingham University (England, U.K.).

10- The English Language Centre at Birmingham University (School of English website: **www.bham.english.ac.uk** / Department of English website **www.english.bham.ac.uk/pg /**).

11- The Department of English, City University of Hong Kong: Master of Arts in Language Studies (Language & Law / Linguistics / Translation & Interpretation (Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics).

12- The Department of English, The National University of Malaysia ( ).

13- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education 2005, ISBN 1 84482 140 4 (www.qaa.ac.uk).

8- ADMISSION

The requirements for admission to the M.A in English Language and Linguistics are derived from KFU admission procedures, including:

1. A Bachelor of Arts in English from King Faisal University with a C (Very Good, 3.75 out of 5) GPA at least, or an equivalent degree from another university with a B in major English courses.

2. Applicants should have studied the following prerequisite courses in their undergraduate program. When all or some of these courses are not covered, they should be studied by the candidates in the department's B.A. program prior to the commencement of the M.A. program.
- Research Seminar/Project in English language.
- Syntax
- Phonology
- Semantics

3- Applicants should pass one of the following tests:
   a. TOEFL: achieving a score of 75 out 120, with a writing component (Taken within at most two years prior to the date of M.A. screening by the DEL)..
   b. IELTS: achieving a score of 5.5 out of 9, with a writing component (Taken within at most two years prior to the date of M.A. screening by the DEL)..
   c. Department admission test: achieving a score of 70, including a writing component).

9- GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following are necessary requirements for a successful completion of program.

1- Successfully complete 30 credit hours of course work. With a General Point Average of B (very good).

    a. 14 hours of core courses.
    b. 6 credit hours from elective courses Group A.
    c. 4 credit hours from elective courses Group B.
    d. 6 credit hours for thesis.

2- Pass a comprehensive examination, subject to completion of all core courses.

3- Write a thesis (20.000 words) about a topic within the domains of the program (6 credit hours for the thesis).

10- STAKEHOLDERS

Four main stakeholders are served by the M.A. Program in English Language and Linguistics: (1) local community, (2) program takers, (3) employers, (4) the research community in KFU. The program also stands to contribute to enhancing the availability of qualified cultivated specialists.

11- Students and the Learning Environment

The learning environment initiates and forms the learning experience students come to know and live in the program. It remains with each student. Therefore, the DEL works hard to make students' stay in the department both enriching and enjoyable.

The main link between the department and university on the one hand and the student on the program on the other, is the department Graduate Committee. Its responsibilities and services include:

1- To ensure that academic standards and university regulations are upheld.

2- To carry out screening of new candidates giving equal opportunity to each student.

3- To make recommendation to the department based on the results of the screening.

4- To prepare schedules and recommend possible instructors.

5- To provide students with information about university regulations, facilities, program structure at different stages of the program especially in the first semester.

6- To monitor students' performance and advise those facing difficulty.

7- To keep program archives and files.

8- To receive students' complaints and assist in finding solutions.

9- To hold regular meetings with students.

10- To help in the formation of the viva voce committee.

11- To carry out tasks assigned to it by the chairman of the department.

12- Program graduates

The expected program graduates will be able to take up employment in various areas including the following:

1- Local professionals in English.

    A. Educational supervisors.

    B. Qualified experts.

    C. Editors/writers in local media.

2- Potential researchers

    A. College/university lecturers.

    B. Private higher education institutions.

3- Privately employed

    A. Self-employed

    B. Collaborators with private businesses.

13- KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

The domains cover the following areas:

1- Methodology of research in English Language and Linguistics.

2- English Language: Grammar, Phonology, and various varieties of English.

   Theoretical Advances in English Language and Linguistics.

3- Linguistic Applications.

4- Research.

These domains, the objectives they serve and the competencies they aim at are specified in Table (1) below.

#	Knowledge Domains	Number of courses	Credit Hours	Contact Hours	Objectives served	Competencies aimed at
1	Methodology	1	2	2	This domain will enable the learner to: 1- Show knowledge of the philosophical and theoretical foundations of linguistics. 2- Apply theoretical frames to the description of English and other languages. 3- Write a coherent work using academic style.	1. Knowledge of philosophical background of empirical methodology in Linguistics. 2. Argumentation in Linguistics. 3. Properties of Linguistic theories. 4. Academic papers and theses in Linguistics.
2	Theoretical Advances in English Language & Linguistics	6	12	12	This domain will enable the learner to: 1- Show knowledge of the main contributions and trends in English Grammar. 2- Show knowledge of the main schools of phonology and Syntax as applied to English. 3- Describe and analyse English at various levels of linguistic analysis.	1. Basic references of English Grammar. 2. Linguistic theories applied to English. 3. Analytical methods used in descriptive linguistics. 4. Prominent contributions in English Linguistics.
3	Linguistic Applications (Language in Use)	5	10	10	This domain will enable the learner to: 1- Show knowledge of various areas of applying theoretical advances in studying language in use. 2- Show analytical and descriptive abilities in applying linguistic theories to examples from English and other languages 3- Be able to identify language problems relevant to English in the local situation and suggest viable solutions to them.	Knowledge of content and techniques in a chosen selection from the following: Lexicology & Lexicography, Forensic Linguistics, English Varieties, Translation, Language and Media, Language Evaluation, Language and Literacy, Corpus Linguistics, Language Planning, English For Specific Purposes.
4	Research	Dissertation	6	6	This research work will enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the field and ability to apply theories to new data.	Defining linguistic problems, Reviewing and commenting on relevant literature, Analysing linguistic data, producing a coherent argument.
Total credits required			**30**	30		

Table (1): Knowledge Domains, Objectives and Competencies.

14- RESEARCH THESIS

A research thesis (dissertation) of about 20 thousand words is required. Topics are agreed with prospective supervisors. Generally, the research exercise amounts to an investigation in one of the areas outlined in the program course plan.

The thesis is based on original work by the student and should meet the academic standards explicitly expressed in the King Faisal University regulations.

15- BENCHMARKS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE STANDARDS

The need for reinforcing standards and abiding by explicit evaluation and benchmarks is paramount. In this respect, the M.A. program described here is not an exception. Therefore, it is essential for the providing department, the Department of English Language, to uphold the following benchmarks to ensure the quality of the learning experience the program stands to offer.

Benchmarks:

1- Admission Requirements outlined in (8) above:

A. General Point Average of Very Good in the B.A.

B. A set of prerequisite courses for candidates who do not come from an English language/Linguistics background.

C. One of the following tests:

   a. TOEFL: achieving a score of 75 out 120, with a writing component (Taken within at most two years prior to the date of M.A. screening by the DEL), in addition to a problem solving question in research methodology.

   b. IELTS: achieving a score of 5.5 out of 9, with a writing component (Taken within at most two years prior to the date of M.A. screening by the DEL), in addition to a problem solving question in research methodology.

   c. Department admission test: achieving a score of 70 out of 100, including a writing component), in addition to a problem solving question in research methodology

2- Course passing requirement:

   a. 70% is the minimum required score for passing any of the courses.

3- Entry to comprehensive examination requirement:

15

a. A total of very good General Point Average.

4- Thesis proposal:

a. Preparation and completion of a thesis proposal which has to be discussed and approved by the department. The proposal is later approved by the College Council and the Higher Studies Council of the Deanship of Higher Studies.

5- The thesis Examination (Viva Voce)

a. The thesis is examined in an open session (viva voce) in accordance with KFU regulations.

16- COURSES

A- Course list and identification

	#	Course Name	Course Number	Credit hours	Contact hours	Notes
Core courses (14 credit hours)	1	Methodology of linguistic Research	7403700	2	2	Total of 14 hours
	2	Modern English Grammar	7403701	2	2	
	3	English Linguistics I: Phonology & Syntax	7403702	2	2	
	4	Schools of Linguistics	7403703	2	2	
	5	English Linguistics II: Semantics and Pragmatics	7403704	2	2	
	6	Psycholinguistics	7403705	2	2	
	7	Discourse Analysis & Textlinguistics	7403706	2	2	
Electives A: 3 out of 5 courses (6 credit hours)						
Elective Courses I (6 credit hours)	8	Lexicology and Lexicography	7403707	2	2	Total of 6 hours
	9	Language Varieties	7403708	2	2	
	10	English for Specific Purposes	7403709	2	2	
	11	Translation	7403710	2	2	
	12	Language and Media	7403711	2	2	
Electives B: 2 out of 4 courses (4 credit hours)						
Elective Courses II (4 credit hours)	13	English Corpus Linguistics	7403712	2	2	Total of 4 hours
	14	Language and literacy	7403713	2	2	
	15	Language Planning	7403714	2	2	
	16	Topics in Linguistics	7403715	2	2	
Research						
Research (6Cedits)		Thesis	7403790	6		6 hours
				30	credit hours	

Table (2): Course identification

B- Program structure

	#	Course Name	Course Number	Credit hours	Contact hours
1st Semester	1	Methodology of linguistic Research	7403700	2	2
	2	Modern English Grammar	7403701	2	2
	3	English Linguistics I: Phonology & Syntax	7403702	2	2
2nd Semester	4	Schools of Linguistics	7403703	2	2
	5	English Linguistics II: Semantics and Pragmatics	7403704	2	2
	6	Psycholinguistics	7403705	2	2
	7	Discourse Analysis & Textlinguistics	7403706	2	2
3rd Semester	8	Elective: from Group A	74037xx	2	2
	9	Elective: from Group A	74037xx	2	2
	10	Elective: from Group A	74037xx	2	2
	11	Elective: from Group B	74037xx	2	2
4th Semester	12	Elective: from Group B	74037xx	2	2
		Comprehensive Exam.		-	-
		Thesis	7403900	6	
				30	

Table (3): Program structure

C- Course prerequisites

M.A. candidates should study the Program Prerequisites (listed above under Admission Requirements) before starting courses from the M.A. program. However, according to Item 12 of the *United Regulations of Graduate studies in Saudi Universities*, the department is allowed to permit candidates to take up to two prerequisites at the same time they studying the core courses.

There is no strict ordering of the courses in the program, but the following guidelines are to be observed.

1- "Methodology of Linguistic Research" should be offered in the first semester.

2- Core courses are offered before elective courses.

17- Course Guide: Master of Art in English Language and Linguistics, ; College of Arts, KFU

Code	Course name		Credit/contact	Theoretical	Practical	Prerequisites	Required From
MED 7403700	Methodology of Ling. Research	طرق البحث في اللغويات	2/2	2	-	(Program Pre.)	MA English Lang.
MED 7403701	Modern English Grammar	النحو الإنجليزي الحديث	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403702	English Linguistics I: Phonology & Syntax	اللغويات الإنجليزية (١): نظام الصوتي وسنتاكس	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403703	Schools of Linguistics	مدارس اللغويات	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403704	English Linguistics II: Semantics & Pragmatics	اللغويات الإنجليزية (٢): علم الدلالة والبراغمتيك	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403705	Psycholinguistics	اللغة والعقل	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403706	Discourse Analysis	تحليل الخطاب	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403707	Lexicology & Lexicography	علم المفردات والقواميس	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403708	Language Varieties	الأنواع اللغوية	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403709	English for Specific Purposes	الإنجليزية للأغراص المحددة	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403710	Translation	الترجمة	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403711	Language and Media	اللغة والإعلام	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403712	English Corpus Linguistics	لغويات النصوص الإنجليزية	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403713	Language and Literacy	اللغة والقراءة والكتابة	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403714	Language Planning	التخطيط اللغوي	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403715	Topics in Linguistics	موضوعات في اللغويات	2/2	2	-	None	MA English Lang
MED 7403790	Thesis	الرسالة	6/6			(Comp. Exam)	MA English Lang

18- COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All the courses designated in this program are individually described in details in the following pages.