



**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION**  
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED LANGUAGE SCIENCES**  
**LEARNING MODULE OUTLINE**

Academic Year	2025/2026	Semester	1 & 2
Module Code	PALS8299-231		
Learning Module	Thesis		
Pre-requisite(s)	Nil		
Medium of Instruction	English		
Credits	21	Contact Hours	Not applicable
Instructor	Mark Feng Teng	Email	markteng@mpu.edu.mo
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**MODULE DESCRIPTION**

This course unit aims to help the student conceive, develop, and publicly defend an original doctoral thesis, the product of rigorous scientific research involving readings, observations, investigations, and reflections.

**MODULE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILOS)**

On completion of this learning module, students will be able to:

M1.	Deepen research autonomy.
M2.	Consolidate critical and well-founded analysis of scientific theories and research practices related to their area of specialization.
M3.	Produce academic texts.
M4.	Develop skills necessary for the scientific dissemination of their research.
M5.	Adhere to ethical principles in research.

These ILOs aims to enable students to attain the following Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs):

PILOs	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
P1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of core concepts, theories, and frameworks in applied language sciences.	✓					
P2. Critically analyze, synthesize, and evaluate current research literature and theoretical developments in applied language sciences.		✓		✓		✓



P3. Design, implement, and manage original empirical research projects using appropriate methodologies in applied language sciences.			✓	✓	✓	✓
P4. Apply rigorous ethical standards and professional integrity in research and professional practice.		✓			✓	
P5. Analyse, interpret, and communicate complex research findings through scholarly writing, presentations, and other academic formats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P6. Reflect critically on personal research practices and demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional and academic development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P7. Integrate interdisciplinary perspectives from linguistics, education, psychology, and related fields to address complex issues in language sciences.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P8. Demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills by proposing innovative solutions to theoretical and practical challenges in applied language sciences.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P9. Engage constructively with academic, professional, and community stakeholders to disseminate research findings and contribute to knowledge transfer.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P 10. Demonstrate leadership and autonomy in planning, conducting, and evaluating independent research that advances the field of applied language sciences.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

#### TEACHING AND LEARNING SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND WORKLOAD

Week	Content Covered	Contact Hour
	<p>This is a tutorial-based course unit. Accordingly, each supervisor tailors guidance to the student and the research topics under investigation. The Thesis Supervisor ensures that the student is familiar with and uses specialized bibliography, employs appropriate conceptual and methodological tools for drafting the final work, and produces and publicly defends an original scientific investigation in the form of a doctoral thesis.</p> <p>Supervision hours vary according to the student's enrollment year:</p>	

#### TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In this learning module, students will work towards attaining the ILOs through the following teaching and learning activities:

Teaching and Learning Activities	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
T1. Commentary and discussion of academic texts and research tools.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2. Student-led research activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
T3. Drafting and discussion of academic texts.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
T4. Public defense of an original thesis.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## ATTENDANCE

Attendance requirements are governed by the Academic Regulations Governing Doctoral Degree Programmes of the Macao Polytechnic University. Students who do not meet the attendance requirements for the learning module shall be awarded an 'F' grade.

## ASSESSMENT

To complete this course unit, students must fulfill the following assessment activities:

- Submit a progress report every six months on their research project and thesis, accompanied by an evaluation report from their supervisor, to be submitted to the Pedagogical Committee of the academic unit.
- Within 12 to 24 months after enrollment, each student must:
  - (i) Submit a detailed research plan, approved by the supervisor, once the topic is chosen.
  - (ii) Pass the qualification exam.

To complete the doctorate, the student must write and defend an original thesis under the supervision of an advisor. The public defense marks the final stage of the thesis process and the completion of the doctorate (see Pedagogical Regulations for Doctoral Degree Programs of the Macao Polytechnic University).

The assessment will be conducted following the University's Assessment Strategy (see [www.mpu.edu.mo/teaching\\_learning/en/assessment\\_strategy.php](http://www.mpu.edu.mo/teaching_learning/en/assessment_strategy.php)). Passing this learning module indicates that students will have attained the ILOs of this learning module and thus acquired its credits.

## GRADING CRITERIA

The doctoral thesis will be evaluated based on:

1. Quality of writing and presentation;
2. Literature review and study development;
3. Proposed methodology and solutions;
4. Results and discussions;
5. Contribution to knowledge;
6. Originality and creativity;
7. Other aspects relevant to the jury.

The result will be expressed as follows:

Result	General Description
<b>APPROVED</b>	The thesis meets approval criteria, is well-conducted, and well-presented, with minimal typographical or stylistic errors.



Result	General Description
<b>CONDITIONALLY APPROVED, MINOR REVISIONS REQUIRED</b>	The thesis meets approval criteria but has minor correctable weaknesses. Some typographical or stylistic errors.
<b>CONDITIONALLY APPROVED, MAJOR REVISIONS REQUIRED</b>	The thesis meets approval criteria but has significant flaws requiring substantial reconceptualization, rewriting, or reanalysis. Additional data collection may be needed.
<b>NOT APPROVED</b>	The thesis fails to meet approval criteria, with fundamental flaws in theory, methodology, or overall structure that cannot be resolved through revisions. The candidate's defense reveals a lack of understanding, indicating an inability to perform independent doctoral-level work. No resubmission is permitted.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Core bibliography will be provided during supervision sessions, tailored to the student's research project needs.

#### **STUDENT FEEDBACK**

At the end of every semester, students are invited to provide feedback on the learning module and the teaching arrangement through questionnaires. Your feedback is valuable for instructors to enhance the module and its delivery for future students. The instructor and programme coordinators will consider all feedback and respond with actions formally in the annual programme review.

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The Macao Polytechnic University requires students to have full commitment to academic integrity when engaging in research and academic activities. Violations of academic integrity, which include but are not limited to plagiarism, collusion, fabrication or falsification, repeated use of assignments and cheating in examinations, are considered as serious academic offenses and may lead to disciplinary actions. Students should read the relevant regulations and guidelines in the Student Handbook which is distributed upon the admission into the University, a copy of which can also be found at [www.mpu.edu.mo/student\\_handbook/](http://www.mpu.edu.mo/student_handbook/).