

Module code: MOD007276	Version: 3 Date Amended: 30/Oct/2023
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1. Module Title
Sounds and Communication

2a. Module Leader
Vahid Parvaresh

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module will introduce you to the system of sounds used in the English language, focussing on standard southern British English. You will learn how the various speech organs, such as the tongue and lips, are used to produce the range of sounds found in the language. We will explore how spectrograms and computer software can be used to visualise these sounds, and the terminology used to describe and classify them. You will also learn how the sounds of English are represented using the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

6b. Outline Content

- The vocal tract
- The vowel sounds of English
- The consonant sounds of English
- The English syllable
- Word stress
- Broad phonemic transcription of English
- Spectrograms and software for acoustic analysis of speech

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate awareness of English phonology at the levels of phonemes and syllables.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate awareness of articulatory phonetics.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Understand broad phonological transcriptions of English words.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Under supervision, use an appropriate computer package for the basic analysis of speech acoustics.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1-4	Lecture 1hr x 12 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	Seminar/workshop 1 hr x 12 weeks
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Students need to do approximately 8 hours of self-study per week.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio of 3000 words equivalent.					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]