

Module Title: Computers and Language

Module Code: SML5202

Credit Value: 15

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module, as the title indicates, is about computers and languages. However, both computers and languages are large topics in themselves. So the focus of this course is to provide you with a broad introduction to some key concepts related to computers and languages, as well as providing you with practice in developing your computing skills.

What does the course include?

The following is a brief overview of some of the areas we will study on the course:

1. We begin by finding out about your own use of computers in your studies, your experience, and what you expect from this course. Where possible, we will use this information to direct the course to your own particular interests.
2. We then briefly review some key learning theories as they relate to various types of computer application. For example, how we use computers to communicate, which is central to language learning, or how computer applications can be used in and of themselves to help us learn. You will then be asked to evaluate a website or an app of your choice to assess how effective it is for language learning.
3. We will also explore some of the debate around artificial intelligence, particularly in relation to how computers process language, in order to develop our awareness of the distinction between processing language and understanding language. We will also touch upon the way translation tools process language to generate translations.
4. Throughout the course, we will also develop your skills in website development. In particular, we will introduce you to the fundamentals of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), which is the structural framework of all websites; Cascading Stylesheets (CSS), which is the design language of all websites; and JavaScript (JS), which is the programming language of all websites. Through undertaking practical work in these areas, you will gain an insight into how the worldwide web works, and you will also gain an introductory understanding of the core concepts of programming.

By the end of the course, you will have produced a website of content based on your own interests, using the skills and ideas you've acquired on the course.