

Mobile Assisted Language Learning (A704035)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
Credits 5.0	Study time 150 h	Contact hrs	45.0 h
Course offerings in academic year 2020-2021			
A (semester 1)	English	Gent	
Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021			
Macken, Lieve		LW22	lecturer-in-charge
Goethals, Patrick		LW22	co-lecturer
Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021			
Postgraduate Certificate Computer-Assisted Language Mediation		crdts	offering
		5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Mobile Assisted Language Learning, foreign languages, mobility, learner-centred learning, social learning

Position of the course

Mobile Assisted Language Learning is an intersection between Mobile Learning and Computer Assisted Language Learning. It is also the name of an optional 5 ECTS subject that is studied during the first semester of this master. This subject is offered to provide the students with an opportunity to learn about the perspectives and results of the work undertaken by the research community in the domain of Mobile Assisted Language Learning, and in other neighbouring fields such as incidental learning, gamification, and social learning, to name a few. The subject also has a practical side whereby the functionality of the mobile device for the specific purpose of language learning and the apps that can be stored and used therein are tried out and reflected upon in an interrelated way.

After a few decades of massive use of mobile devices by the general public and their increasing use for educational and training purposes and, particularly, for learning languages, the time is optimum for a specialized subject that focuses in a mosaic-like way on a steady path of mobile technological innovation and second language learning opportunity. This subject deals with the advantages and disadvantages that networked mobile devices and their various applications and related conceptual frameworks can entail for students, and the associated challenges for language teachers.

Contents

- 1 State of the art of the discipline.
- 2 Integration of other fields of knowledge in MALL: linguistics, pedagogy, cognitive science, computational linguistics, artificial intelligence, computing technology.
- 3 MALL and the development of specific linguistic and communicative competences.
- 4 Case studies with specific apps and tools.

Initial competences

An adequate knowledge of the English Language is required (B2 or more) and willingness to explore the potential of one's mobile device for language learning purposes.

Final competences

This subject is structured so that the student will obtain an understanding of MALL from two different and complementary perspectives: a theoretical one, reflecting the state of the art of the discipline, and a practical one, illustrating the currently available range of apps and functionalities of mobile devices. To be specific, by the end of the semester a student will have obtained the following results:

- 1 At a theoretical level: the student will have a general knowledge of the history and trajectory of this field since its very beginning and the theoretical models that underpin the application of MALL both within and outside of the language classroom. The results obtained from these different approaches will also be understood by the student in terms of the development of communicative and linguistic competences and the characteristics of the underlying mobile devices.
- 2 At a practical level: the student will have gained experience of installing and experimenting with a representative sample of mobile apps and tools for learning languages together with their didactic possibilities in a formal and/or non-formal learning environment. Furthermore, a range of apps will be used that reflect the different ways in which mobile technology can be used: individually, accessing both local and online resources, collaboratively, sharing information artefacts online, and socially, where groups of people network around common themes.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Extra information on the teaching methods

The methodological aspects related to these activities are as follows:

- 1 Synthesis of the state of the issue with academic articles and other contents, exercises, etc. -> methodology: Reading the key literature and carrying out a short essay or presentation individually or in pairs.
- 2 Individual tutorials -> methodology: Resolution of doubts, queries and follow up of works by email and/or in the forum.
- 3 Individual work -> methodology: Autonomous work on the part of the student.

This course on Mobile Assisted Language Learning (henceforth, MALL) requires a continuous study throughout the semester, where the theoretical and practical concepts related to the state of the art of the use of mobile devices for teaching and learning languages can be assimilated. To help students use their time wisely and effectively in this subject, a fortnightly plan will be provided, together with suggested activities, since it will be very difficult to assimilate the subject if the work is left to the end of the term!

Learning materials and price

All learning materials will be available online (UNED online platform).

References

A selection of articles from the following open-access volume: A.Palalas & M. Ally (2016) The International Handbook of Mobile-Assisted Language Learning. Beijing: China Central Radio & TV University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

Mainly via the institutional platform forum, but email and skype sessions also possible.

Teachers:

- Elena Bárcena
- Timothy Read

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

The students' work in this subject will be evaluated by two complementary activities. Firstly, a synthesis and analysis of the literature provided here, i.e., the first part of the International Handbook on MALL, the chapters proposed for reading in weeks 1 to 7. Secondly, A summary of your experience of installing and experimenting with some mobile apps and tools for learning languages together with your reflections on their didactic possibilities in a formal or non-formal learning environment. You can search for such apps (only free ones!) on Google Play or The App Store depending on whether your mobile device (smartphone or tablet) is Android or iOS. Second examination period is possible for those students who handed in the intermediate assignments.

Calculation of the examination mark

50% (first assignment) + 50% (second assignment)