Linguistics and English Language Degrees 2020

The art and science of language

lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics
Are you interested in how language works and how people use it to communicate? Or how English evolved and how it differs from other languages? If so, we have something for you.

As one of the largest departments of Linguistics and English Language in the UK, we offer a vast range of distinguished specialists, scholars who have made the Department one of the best in the world (12th in the 2019 QS World University ranking). In 2015, we won the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for our research.

Our comprehensive yet flexible programmes can be tailored to your interests. You will be taught by staff renowned for excellent teaching; several have won national or university teaching awards. Not surprisingly, we are ranked joint 9th for student satisfaction in the Complete University Guide 2020.

Your degree will open up careers involving linguistic expertise (e.g. speech therapy, teaching English) or prepare you for jobs in education, management or media. We equip you for the world of work (we are joint second for Linguistics graduate prospects in the Complete University Guide 2020).

We have outstanding laboratory facilities, and are home to the British National Corpus, the famous multi-million word language resource. Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure.
Your place to explore
Linguistics and English Language

#2
Ranked joint 2nd for Linguistics graduate prospects
Complete University Guide 2020

#3
Ranked 3rd in the UK for Linguistics
Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019

#12
Ranked 12th in the world for Linguistics
QS World Rankings 2019

+ Schools volunteering module
  In the final year you can take the opportunity to work as a classroom volunteer in a primary or secondary school over the course of one term

+ Student society @LAELsociety
  Highly active student society which organises talks and careers events

+ Study abroad
  Study abroad at partner institutions in Canada, the USA, Australia, and Europe

+ Home of the British National Corpus
  An internationally renowned multi-million word resource for studying language

+ Internships
  Paid research internship opportunities

+ Module options
  Our wide range of module options includes cutting-edge approaches to the field such as forensic linguistics, language evolution, and cognitive linguistics

From studying Linguistics at Lancaster I have developed as both an academic and a person, made great friends, furthered my passion for language and gained the skills I need for my continued study at Lancaster and my future career.

Emily Peach
BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics

Studying a BA in English Language and Linguistics was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. The range of modules, quality of teaching and level of personal and academic support in the Department is excellent. The academic staff at Lancaster are both world-renowned and extremely approachable, meaning you are engaging with world-leading research throughout your undergraduate degree.
Degrees and entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Q304</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Q100</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>QP33</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language and Literature</td>
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<td>Q032</td>
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<td>English Language and Creative Writing</td>
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<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Language and French Studies</td>
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<td>4 years</td>
<td>Q31</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Q32</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<td>Q34</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Q13</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>French Studies and Linguistics</td>
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<td>Q11</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Studies and Linguistics</td>
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<td>Q12</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Studies and Linguistics</td>
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<td>Q14</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<td>AAB</td>
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<td>Psychology and Linguistics</td>
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<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Language with Chinese</td>
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<td>Q3T1</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics with Chinese</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Q1T1</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement year and study abroad degrees

You can take a placement year with most of our degree programmes. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. On our joint degrees with French, German or Spanish Studies, you will spend your third year studying or working abroad on an international placement year. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

We offer named study abroad degrees for English Language, English Language in the Media, Linguistics and English Language and Linguistics. On these 3-year degrees, you spend Year 2 studying at one of our international partner universities. You can also apply to study abroad with other degree schemes once you arrive at Lancaster. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

For information on fees, scholarships and additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: lancaster.ac.uk/study

Teaching and learning

Teaching

We are passionate about our subject, and infuse our teaching with our research. Our department benefits from two National Teaching Fellows. These fellowships are awarded by the Higher Education Academy and recognise individuals who have made an outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in higher education. Most members of staff have written widely-used textbooks. We are a caring, friendly department, providing students with dedicated undergraduate administrators and regular meetings with an academic advisor.

Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible score in the UK government’s 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ratings. Our TEF Gold rating is based on high quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities and the good careers our graduates attain.

Learning in the department

You will learn through a combination of interactive lectures, seminars, lab-based workshops, group work, independent study and research. Typically each module has weekly lectures, small group teaching, a Virtual Learning Environment with materials, and further contact possibilities with tutors and other students. Each student will have an individual supervisor for their final-year project.

Facilities

The Department has some outstanding resources. We have fully equipped laboratories for eye-tracking, phonetics, EEG (Electroencephalography) and child language analysis. These facilities are used by undergraduate students, postgraduate students and staff for a variety of research projects including:

- Eye movements and linguistic processing during second language learning
- Ultrasound images of tongue movements in bilingual speakers
- Brain activity while encoding messages about time in a variety of languages
- Children’s cognitive development

Assessment

Assessment types are varied, including essays, projects, oral presentations, group reports/exercises, multiple-choice tests and examinations. Our modules typically have a 40% coursework assignment and 60% exam assessment split. Coursework is usually marked within four weeks, and returned with constructive feedback.
Your global experience

Study abroad
Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning. You can apply to study abroad for the whole of your second year, or for a term in Year 3, providing a unique experience to add to your CV. Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

Vacation travel
Discover the world in the Easter and Summer vacation periods with our study trips to destinations around the globe.

During the Summer we currently run one-week trips to European countries, and three-week trips further afield, to destinations such as Malaysia, India and China. These trips include meeting local businesses, academic study and cultural discovery.

In the Easter vacation, we currently offer a ten-day trip to New York and Boston in which you join fellow students and lecturers from your faculty to take part in academic, cultural and personal development activities.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Vicky’s study abroad year

In my second year I studied abroad at the Australian National University (Canberra); it was the best decision I have ever made!

I thought it might be challenging to fit in as an exchange student but I gained invaluable friendships with people from all over the world. I studied Australian Indigenous languages, which was fascinating; and I felt well supported by both my universities.

I went on to backpack across the country; from Sydney Surf Camp; to driving the Great Ocean Road in Melbourne; to diving the Great Barrier Reef; and camping on the secluded beaches of Tasmania. It was as incredible as it sounds.

The year abroad taught me to throw myself into life. It was challenging academically and personally at times, however the friends I made, and the support I had, helped me to believe in my abilities. I gained confidence, independence, a respect for different cultures, a unique perspective on my degree subject, and an invaluable knowledge about life skills and travel.

Above all, I gained the knowledge that I could do anything I set my mind to.

Vicky Bedwell
BA (Hons) Linguistics (Study Abroad)

We partner with institutions around the world. Potential destinations for your study abroad experience include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.
Placements and internships

Take advantage of our various opportunities to gain valuable work experience during your degree. You can opt to take credit-bearing work placement modules, apply for paid internships in your area of interest, or undertake a placement year to gain professional experience before you graduate. You can read more about our placement year options and careers support at the back of this booklet.

Research Internships (Summer Vacation and Term Time) - SPRINT and TRINITY

Every year, our department provides up to ten funded internships where second and third year students are given the opportunity to work with members of staff on research projects. SPRINT students work intensively on the same project for one month during the summer vacation. Term-time research internship (TRINITY) students work one day per week throughout terms 1 and 2, moving between a variety of tasks and projects. During the internships, students learn specific research skills and gain experience working alongside dedicated members of staff. This prepares students well for postgraduate study in language-related areas and work in research-intensive fields.

Volunteering and the Lancaster Award

During your degree we provide numerous opportunities for volunteering, CV-building and personal development. For example, you can complete the Lancaster Award which is a programme of structured volunteering, professional skills workshops and careers events. As part of the Lancaster Award you can gain experience in areas connected to your chosen career, such as teaching, speech therapy or media.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/Lancaster-award

If you are interested in teaching, you can opt to take the credit-bearing Schools Volunteering Module where you combine volunteering in a local school with studying the theory of teaching practice. This valuable work experience will stand you in good stead if you go on to apply for a postgraduate teaching degree.

I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the SPRINT programme. Working with another intern, we developed teaching materials for the new generation corpus software #LancsBox. We also had the opportunity to begin constructing a one million word corpus of British English (I can now appreciate the time it takes to construct a corpus!). Other new experiences included coding sociolinguistic data and developing a promotional video for #LancsBox.

It was an honour to work within the Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS) at Lancaster and to witness the commitment of everyone involved. I feel extremely lucky to have gained this experience, and would unreservedly encourage anyone to get involved.

Sam Armstrong
BA (Hons) English Language, worked as a SPRINT intern in his second year

Kristina Kleismane
BA (Hons) Linguistics and German Studies, worked as a TRINITY intern in her final year

Working with Dr Julia Gillen on the Edwardian Postcard Project was a fantastic experience. My main responsibility was maintaining the project’s social media presence. I also spent time transcribing and cataloguing postcards, as well as liaising with people external and internal to the Project, including the architect of the project database itself. It was really great to work alongside Julia as she was such an open and friendly person – I always felt welcomed and appreciated.

lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics
## Degree Structure

### BA (Hons) Linguistics

In your first year, you will study a year-long Linguistics module alongside optional modules in subjects such as English Language that will complement your degree.

Please note that we keep our degree programmes under constant review and regularly introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered and course structure may therefore differ from that presented here.

### Year 1

| Linguistics | + | English Language | + | Flexible subject option |

Find out more about the first year Linguistics and English Language modules on page 16.

### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core modules (30 credits) + Optional modules (90 credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Structures of the World’s Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Sounds of the World’s Languages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can choose from more than 10 second-year modules in the Department. Examples include:
- Child Language Acquisition
- English Phonetics
- Independent Study
- Language and Pedagogic Practice
- Language Origins and Evolution

### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core modules (60 credits) + Optional modules (60 credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Cognitive Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Topics in Phonetic and Phonological Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ Dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can choose from more than 20 third- and as second-year modules in the Department. Examples include:
- Forensic Linguistics
- Language, Culture and Thought
- Schools Volunteering Module
- Psycholinguistics

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## Degree Structure

### BA (Hons) English Language

In your first year, you will study a year-long English Language module alongside optional modules in subjects such as Linguistics that will complement your degree.

Please note that we keep our degree programmes under constant review and regularly introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered and course structure may therefore differ from that presented here.

### Year 1

| English Language + | Linguistics + | Flexible subject option |

Find out more about the first year Linguistics and English Language modules on page 16.

### Year 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Core modules (30 credits) + Optional modules (90 credits)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ English Grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ English Phonetics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples include:
- Corporate Communication
- Discourse Analysis
- Understanding Media
- The Language of Advertising

You can choose from more than 10 second-year modules in the Department.

### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core modules (60 credits) + Optional modules (60 credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Corpus-based English Language Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Advanced English Phonetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples include:
- Language and Identities
- Language, Culture and Thought
- Language in the Workplace

You can choose from more than 20 third- and second-year modules in the Department.
Degree Structure

BA (Hons) English Language and Literature

In your first year, you will study two core modules in Linguistics and English Language, alongside an optional module in another subject.

Please note that we keep our degree programmes under constant review and regularly introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered and course structure may therefore differ from that presented here.

### Year 1

- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Flexible subject option**

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies. Your department will provide a list of module options prior to starting your studies at Lancaster along with information on how to register for your preferred choice.

### Year 2

#### English Language

- **Core module** (30 credits)
- **Optional modules** (30 credits)

  + Stylistics
  + Examples include:
    - English Grammar
    - Discourse Analysis
  + You can choose from more than 10 second-year Linguistics and English Language modules.

#### English Literature

- **Core module** (30 credits)
- **Optional modules** (30 credits)

  + The Theory and Practice of Criticism
  + Examples include:
    - British Romanticism
    - American Literature to 1900
  + You can choose from more than 10 second-year English Literature modules.

### Year 3

#### English Language

- **Optional modules** (60 credits)

  + Language and Identities
  + Language Change in English and Beyond
  + The Language of Advertising
  + You can choose from more than 20 third- as well as second-year Linguistics and English Language modules.

#### English Literature

- **Optional modules** (60 credits)

  + Dissertation
  + Literature and the Visual Arts
  + Premodern Gothic
  + You can choose from more than 20 third-year English Literature modules.
First year modules

In your first year as part of the Linguistics and English Language department at Lancaster University, you will take modules in English Language, in Linguistics, or in both:

**English Language**
- In the English Language module, you will learn about:
  - Structures of English
  - Sounds of English
  - English vocabulary and spelling
  - English dialects and changing English
  - English in conversation
  - Media and creative English
  - Teaching English
  - Investigating English

**Linguistics**
- In the Linguistics module, you will learn about:
  - Grammar
  - Phonetics and phonology
  - Beginnings and endings of language
  - Language variation and change
  - Multilingualism and language contact
  - Language meaning and use
  - History and applications of linguistics

These modules are designed to provide you with a breadth of knowledge of the subject areas you are studying. Then, in your second and final years, you will choose a range of modules in the particular areas that you want to specialise in.

Placement year students

If you are on a placement year degree, you will study a ‘Placement Preparation’ module in Year 1 that supports your skills development for a variety of recruitment processes. In Year 2, you will take the 10-credit module, ‘Work Based Learning Preparation’, in which you prepare an action plan and complete a personality assessment exercise to help you maximise the opportunities for learning and development that your placement will provide.

Joint major students

During your third year on work placement, you will complete a 10-credit assessment. This involves developing a learning agreement and engaging in reflective activities to support your professional development. In your final year, you will also complete a 10-credit module, titled Work Based Learning Reflection. This will enable you to reflect on your placement experience and highlight your key successes and achievements, supporting you with your ongoing career development.

Second and final year modules

Our department has more than 25 second- and third-year modules for you to choose from. They cover a wide range of different subjects. To give an indication of how you can choose modules to suit your own particular interests, here are details of some of the modules we currently offer:

**If you are interested in the sounds of language and in speech therapy, these modules will appeal to you:**
- English Phonetics
- Sounds of the World’s Languages
- Advanced English Phonetics
- Topics in Phonetic and Phonological Theory

**The structure of English and of language at large is the topic of:**
- English Grammar
- Structures of the World’s Languages
- Corpus-based English Language Studies
- Cognitive Linguistics

**Does the variety of uses that language is put to in the world intrigue you? Are you keen on a career in publishing and writing, the media and marketing, management or forensics? If so, these are the modules to consider:**
- Discourse Analysis: Looking at Language in Use*
- Stylistics
- Understanding Media*
- The Language of Advertising
- Corporate Communication
- Language in the Workplace: Topics in Professional Communications
- Forensic Linguistics
- Work Placement Module

**To learn more about the relationship between language and cognition, you could pick:**
- Child Language Acquisition
- Psycholinguistics
- Language, Culture and Thought

The modules marked by * are 30 credits and are taught over 20 weeks (i.e., in Terms 1 and 2). All other modules are 15 credits and are taught over 10 weeks (i.e., in Term 1 only or Term 2 only). Independent Studies can be 15 or 30 credits. For further information about course content, pre-requisites and other restrictions, please refer to the individual course descriptions on our website.

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Joint major students

If you are a joint major, you will study core and optional modules in your two subjects in approximately equal weightings. Major-minor combinations are approximately equal weightings. You will study core and optional modules in your two subjects in approximately equal weightings. Major-minor combinations are approximately equal weightings. You will study core and optional modules in your two subjects in approximately equal weightings. Major-minor combinations are approximately equal weightings. You will study core and optional modules in your two subjects in approximately equal weightings. Major-minor combinations are approximately equal weightings. You will study core and optional modules in your two subjects in approximately equal weightings. Major-minor combinations are approximately equal weightings. You will study core and optional modules in your two subjects in approximately equal weightings. Major-minor combinations are approximately equal weightings. 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Lancaster University invites curiosity; providing the rare opportunity to study up to three subjects in the first year allowing you to truly work out what degree you want, and what you want out of that degree. Studying a BA in English Language and Linguistics grants you entry into a department of teaching excellence with keen students and helpful pastoral staff in a faculty who genuinely care about the success of their students. Lancaster also invites you to go beyond your degree scheme and partake in a variety of extra-curricular activities to strengthen your résumé; taking part in experiments for staff and postgraduate students; an excellent opportunity for experience.

The surroundings of Lancaster University itself provide the best of both worlds in terms of urban and rural development; hosting both a lively nightlife and a bucolic setting; allowing people of any background to thrive in equal comfort creating the optimal opportunity for success.

Sam Hollands
BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics, Year 2
Meet our staff

The Department of Linguistics and English Language has over 30 research active members of staff. Here we introduce you to three of them.

Dr Veronika Koller

My main research interest is in how language is used for business and at work. I have looked at metaphors in business magazines, and at the role of language in building a corporate brand. At the moment, I am investigating how language and visuals work together in the communications of healthcare charities. With a colleague, I have just finished writing a textbook on corporate communication, with chapters, tasks and case studies on branding, leadership, workplace interviews and other topics. The book is based on the module that I teach on corporate communication.

Prof Jonathan Culpeper

My research focuses on the history of English. I have just started a huge project examining the language of Shakespeare. Library shelves groan with the weight of volumes written by Shakespearean literary critics, but in fact very little is written about his language (even less by linguists). I will be plugging that gap, and in the process dispelling a lot of myths. For example, sources on the internet claim that Shakespeare coined thousands of new words. My work suggests that it is at most a few hundred. The interesting thing will be to see exactly which ones he coined.

Dr Silke Brandt

My research focus is on child language acquisition. In particular, I am interested in how children’s cognitive skills (their memory and understanding of other people’s perspectives and beliefs, for instance) develop together with their ability to produce and comprehend complex sentences, such as he thinks that it’s still raining. Understanding other people’s perspectives and beliefs is an important milestone in children’s cognitive development. It helps them to be good communicators and it can also predict how well they will perform at school. In a set of studies that are funded by the International Centre for Language and Communicative Development, I will be looking at what kind of linguistic input promotes children’s understanding of others’ perspectives and beliefs.

Hear from our alumni

Sam Hodges

BA (Hons) English Language, 1999
Director of Content Communications, Netflix

I went to Lancaster a bit shy, but it was the right environment for me to grow. What really struck me was the nature of the relationships that existed between students and teachers, which made it OK to discuss, challenge and debate with a person who was in authority. In a big company like Netflix that is vital.

Michelle Baggaley

BA (Hons) English Language, 2010
Teacher of English, Bradford Grammar School

Lancaster University provided me with memories that I will never forget. What I remember most is the sense of belonging that I immediately felt. Taught by renowned researchers, I now find myself using their research in my A Level lessons. This makes me feel proud to have been taught by specialists and slightly nostalgic as I reminisce about the fantastic time I had at Lancaster.
We emphasise careers from the very beginning of your degree, a factor that contributes to the success of our graduates in the workplace.

**Work Experience**
We offer a variety of internship opportunities throughout your degree that enable you to gain work experience, make professional contacts, and help you decide your future career path. You can read more about some of these on page 10.

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internships**
These are short-term internships that you can apply to undertake in the summer vacation, or on a part-time basis during term-time. Places are not guaranteed but we will help you prepare for the competitive application process.

The internships are in small and medium sized businesses as well as third sector and not-for-profit organisations. Past employers have included Carnegie Publishing, The Dukes Theatre, and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

**Placement Year Degrees**
All of our degrees (excluding the Study Abroad variant) can include a year of paid, professional work experience between your second and final year of study. Lancaster University students have worked with companies as diverse as Johnson & Johnson, Warner Bros, Microsoft, Marks & Spencer, and Walt Disney. Typically placements are for between 9-12 months. Places are not guaranteed but we will help you prepare for the competitive application process. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

**Schools Volunteering Module**
In your final year you can opt to take this credit-bearing module delivered collaboratively with Lancaster University Students’ Union. You will gain first-hand experience of teaching through classroom observation, teacher assistance and teaching small groups under supervision.

**Careers**
Language study is not just about facts, but learning a range of skills in data management and analysis, the evaluation of evidence, and the synthesis and presentation of results. These are exactly the kinds of skills that today’s employers are looking for.

Here are some typical areas that may be of interest to you once you have taken a degree from our department:

+ Speech and Language Therapy
+ Teaching (primary, secondary, and English as a Foreign Language abroad)
+ Journalism, Media and Publishing
+ Speech Technology
+ Public Relations
+ Publishing
+ Management

The University Careers Service offers lifelong career support and has connections with some of the world’s top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across every sector. Careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities are organised throughout the year.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/careers

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**A career for Alec**

During my degree at Lancaster I was introduced to a wide range of fascinating topics including phonetics, language acquisition, and language disorders. I was also encouraged to critically consider how theories could be applied to real situations. Consequently I became interested in how the theories of language and speech production related to individuals with communication difficulties.

This is how the foundation for my career was laid. Since completing my undergraduate degree I completed a Masters degree and was trained as a Speech and Language Therapist.

I now work in hospitals with patients with a range of communication difficulties. This includes patients with aphasia, dementia, traumatic brain injuries, progressive neuro-degenerative conditions, spinal injuries, voice disorders, motor speech difficulties, and head and neck cancer.

**Alec Carr**
BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics, 2014
NHS Speech and Language Therapist