Welcome

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 2020 QS World University ranking).

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 1st in the UK for student satisfaction in the Complete University Guide 2021.

Your degree will open up careers involving linguistic expertise (e.g. speech therapy, teaching English) or help prepare you for jobs in education, management or media. We equip you for the world of work (Linguistics is ranked joint 1st for career after 6 months in The Guardian 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.

Professor Uta Papen
Head of Department of Linguistics and English Language
Your place to explore Linguistics and English Language

#1
Ranked joint 1st for Linguistics graduate prospects
Guardian University Guide 2020

#2
Ranked joint 2nd in the UK for Linguistics
Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020

#12
Ranked 12th in the world for Linguistics
QS World Rankings 2020

+ Schools volunteering module
  In the final year you have 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

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

+ Study abroad
  Opportunities to study abroad at a partner institution in Canada, the USA, Australia, or Europe

+ 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

“As a student who loves English, I chose this degree scheme without hesitation. It is not simply teaching me English grammar and vocabulary, but it also focuses on the study of language structure, syntax, semantics, phonetics, phonology and so on. All of the staff in the department are super warm-hearted and helpful. Whenever I have questions, I can either go to their office drop-in sessions or email them to make an appointment and they are always full of energy to help and support me.

I have participated in different societies and events that have helped me gain confidence in public speaking. I am part of the Linguistics Society, which ran over 31 events and talks in one term relating to the application of linguistics in various fields, such as the combination of linguistics with computer science.

Overall, during my three years at Lancaster, I have made lots of friends, my English has rapidly improved and the most important thing is that I have learned to study and think independently.”

Yuqing Ding
BA (Hons) Linguistics and English Language, Year 3

Think independently

www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics
Degrees and entry requirements

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Placement year and study abroad degrees

Check online for the correct UCAS codes to apply for a placement year degree, which are available with most of our 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 Chinese, French, German or Spanish Studies, you will spend your third year studying or working abroad on an international placement year. Find out more: www.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 (see UCAS for relevant codes). 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: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

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

Teaching and learning

Teaching

We are passionate about our subject, and infuse our teaching with our research. The department benefits from several staff members with university teaching and supervision prizes and from a National Teaching Fellow. These fellowships are awarded by the Higher Education academy to individuals who have made an outstanding impact on teaching 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.
I spent my study abroad year at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada and it was hands down the best year of my life. Having never been to Canada, I was excited to see what it had to offer, and it did not disappoint. I was offered so many new opportunities, from skating on the Rideau Canal and hiking around the stunning Gatineau Park in Autumn to exploring brand new cities. Ottawa was the perfect base for me to settle, with such easy connections to Montreal, Toronto and Quebec City, all of which I was lucky enough to visit, making memories of a lifetime. I also met so many incredible people whom I can now call friends for life, and I am already eager to return. One of my favourite parts was experiencing the different culture, including the variety of sports games I was able to watch live – from ice hockey and American football to, my favourite, basketball.

The support of Lancaster and Carleton universities before, during and after my experience was second to none and the teaching at Carleton was amazing – another positive is the opportunity to study modules you wouldn’t otherwise have access to, such as Communication Disorders. Not only have I grown in confidence and independence, but I have a new found love for travelling. Even though at times there were challenges, they are outweighed by the invaluable skills I gained and by a new appreciation for trying new things.

If you are looking for the all-round university experience, a chance to travel whilst experiencing a new culture, as well as meeting incredible people from all around the world, studying abroad is an option I couldn’t recommend more highly.

Sonia French
BA (Hons) Linguistics (Study Abroad)
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: www.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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.
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.

Year 1

- Core module
  - Linguistics
- Optional module
  - eg. English Language
- Minor module

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

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in Linguistics. 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

- Core modules
  - Structures of the World’s Languages
  - Sounds of the World’s Languages
- Optional modules

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

- Core modules
  - Cognitive Linguistics
  - Topics in Phonetic and Phonological Theory
  - Dissertation
- Optional modules

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

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.

Year 1

- Core module
  - English Language
- Optional module
  - eg. Linguistics
- Minor module

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

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in English Language. 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

- Core modules
  - English Grammar
  - English Phonetics
- Optional modules

You can choose from more than 10 second-year modules in the Department.
Examples include:
- Corporate Communication
- Discourse Analysis
- Understanding Media
- The Language of Advertising

Year 3

- Core modules
  - Corpus-based English Language Studies
  - Advanced English Phonetics
  - Dissertation
- Optional modules

You can choose from more than 20 third-year modules in the Department.
Examples include:
- Language and Identities
- Language, Culture and Thought
- Language in the Workplace

www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics
Degree Structure
BA (Hons) English Language and Literature

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

Year 1

- Core module: English Language
- Core module: English Literature
- Minor module

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

English Literature

- Core module
- Optional modules
  + The Theory and Practice of Criticism
  You can choose from 5 second-year English Literature modules. Examples include:
  + British Romanticism
  + American Literature to 1900

Year 3

English Language

- Optional modules
  You can choose from more than 20 third-year English Language modules. Examples include:
  + Language and Identities
  + Language Change in English and Beyond
  + The Language of Advertising

English Literature

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

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and regularly introduce modules. In any academic year, the modules offered may therefore differ from those presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change in response to curricular developments and following consultation with students. Please check our website for the latest information: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)
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

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.

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
+ Introduction to Computational 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

There is also ample opportunity for you to carry out some research on your own in these two modules:
+ Independent Study
+ Dissertation*

Some examples of dissertation topics undertaken in previous years include:
+ An investigation into the use of metaphors by MPs in political speeches regarding the economy
+ An acoustic analysis of sound change in Lancashire vowels
+ Optimising language learning: a comparison of the effectiveness of explicit instruction and semi-explicit feedback
+ Acquisition of an artificial language: The contributions of working memory and instruction

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.

During your third and final years, a range of support and additional credit-bearing modules will help you to develop a learning agreement and to engage in reflective activities around your professional development. This will enable you to reflect on your placement experience and highlight your key successes and achievements, supporting you with your ongoing career development.

Joint major
students

You will study core and optional modules in your two subjects in approximately equal weightings. Major-minor combinations are split approximately 75/25%. Find out more online: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

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.
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 3
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
One of my main research interests 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. With a colleague, I have written a textbook on corporate communication (Language in Business, Language at Work), with chapters, tasks and case studies on branding, leadership, workplace interviews and many other topics. The book is based on the module that I teach on corporate communication and now also has a podcast to go with it (wordsandactions.blog). My other main interest is political discourse, and I have co-edited a book titled Discourses of Brexit.

Prof Jonathan Culpeper
My research focuses on the history of English. I run a huge AHRC-funded 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 am 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’m interested in how children’s cognitive skills (e.g. memory, understanding of others’ perspectives and beliefs) develop together with their ability to produce and comprehend complex sentences, such as he thinks that it’s still raining. Understanding others’ perspectives and beliefs is an important milestone in children’s social-cognitive development. It helps them to be good communicators and it can also predict how well they perform at school. In a set of studies that are funded by the ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development, I am looking at what kind of linguistic input promotes children’s social-cognitive development and whether languages differ in how they express different perspectives and beliefs.

Hear from our alumni

Sam Hodges
BA (Hons) English Language, 1999
Partner, Freuds

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. Wherever I’ve worked - from the BBC to Netflix and Twitter - that skill has been 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: www.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: www.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: www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers

Important information
The information in this booklet relates primarily to 2021/22 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2020. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application.

Further legal information may be found at www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.

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 now the foundation for my career. Since completing my undergraduate degree I completed a Masters degree and 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

- Using ultrasound to measure the shape and movements of the tongue during speech

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 now the foundation for my career. Since completing my undergraduate degree I completed a Masters degree and trained as a Speech and Language Therapist.

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