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 specialist scholars who have made the Department one of the best in the world (joint 12th in the 2022 QS World University Rankings).

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.

We are also ranked joint 7th in the UK for graduate prospects (Complete University Guide 2023), showcasing how a Lancaster University degree equips you for the world of work. Your degree will open up careers involving linguistic expertise, such as speech therapy and teaching English, or help prepare you for jobs in education, management or media.

We have outstanding laboratory facilities, and are home to the British National Corpus, the famous multi-million word language resource, the latest version of which we released at the end of 2021.

Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure.

Professor Jonathan Culpeper
Head of Department
Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster

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

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

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

World-leading research
You will be taught by active researchers

Internships
Paid internship opportunities in Linguistics and English Language research

Meet Ollie

The main thing I find valuable about studying Linguistics at Lancaster is the large amount of friendly and helpful staff who will do their best to assist with any problems you may be having. In terms of academics, I’m really fascinated by discourse analysis and how different features of a text can be used together to create meaning. I am a member of a couple of societies, including the LAEL society which puts on regular socials and interesting academic talks. Furthermore, I participated in a work placement module offered by the department and went to work with young people with additional needs and disabilities and I gained many valuable skills that I can use, not just for future work but across many aspects of my life.

Ollie Cairns,
BA (Hons) Linguistics, Year 2

Meet Ying

I chose to pursue linguistics because of my interest in how languages operate and how they reflect and shape our understanding of the world. Lancaster’s wide range of modules and flexible degree scheme meant I had both the freedom and support to study what really interested me. The staff in particular have been a key part of this. They have helped me develop my skills and knowledge, both within and beyond the teaching content, and I feel empowered to continue pursuing the research I started in my degree as a career.

Ying Siu,
BA (Hons) Linguistics, currently studying MA Language and Linguistics
# Degrees and entry requirements

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## Teaching and learning

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 both caring and friendly, providing our students with regular meetings with an academic advisor.

### Teaching

Working with ultrasound tongue imaging in Lancaster's state-of-the-art phonetics laboratory.

### 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 a dedicated 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. Some modules are assessed 100% on coursework, and some are split 40% coursework and 60% exam.

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- Study abroad options
- Placement year options

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements: [www.lancaster.ac.uk](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk)
Your global experience

Study abroad
Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning on a 4-year study abroad degree. This provides 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 short trips to destinations around the globe.

During the summer we typically run three-week programmes to destinations such as Malaysia, India, Ghana and China. These include meeting local businesses, academic study and cultural discovery. For a classroom-based experience, you can also attend summer schools delivered by one of our many overseas partner universities.

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

We partner with institutions around the world. Potential destinations for your study abroad experience currently include Australia, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Singapore and the USA. These destinations are given as a guide only as the availability of places at overseas partners may vary from year to year. Please note that overseas opportunities may be impacted by international travel or Government border restrictions.

Find out more about study abroad and vacation travel: www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Sonia’s study abroad year

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), graduated 2021.
Linguistics offers a fresh insight into the human mind, combining arts and sciences into one captivating subject. 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 14.

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in Linguistics. We will provide a list of minor 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
- Introduction to Computational Linguistics
- Language and Pedagogic Practice
- The Language of Advertising

**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

Uncovering the secrets of the English language is a rich and rewarding experience. 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 MODULES**
- English Language

**OPTIONAL MODULES**
- eg. Linguistics

**MINOR MODULE**

Find out more about the first year Linguistics and English Language modules on page 14.

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in English Language. We will provide a list of minor 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:
- Structures of the World’s Languages
- Discourse Analysis
- Understanding Media
- The Language of Advertising

**Year 3**

**CORE MODULES**
- Corpus-based English Language Studies
- 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
- Schools Volunteering Module
Degree structure
BA (Hons) English Language and Literature

Discover how the language at the heart of key literary texts functions with a degree in 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

Find out more about this module on page 14.

CORE MODULE
English Literature

+ Literature in Crisis: From Chaucer to Comics

MINOR MODULE

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

Year 2

English Language

CORE MODULE

+ Stylistics

OPTIONAL MODULES

You can choose from more than 10 second-year Linguistics and English Language modules.

Examples include:

+ English Grammar
+ Discourse Analysis

English Literature

CORE MODULE

+ The Theory and Practice of Criticism

OPTIONAL MODULES

You can choose from 5 second-year English Literature modules.

Examples include:

+ British Romanticism
+ American Literature to 1800

Year 3

English Language

OPTIONAL MODULES

You can choose from more than 20 third-year as well as second-year Linguistics and English Language modules.

Examples include:

+ Language and Identities
+ Language Variation and Change in English
+ 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
First year modules

As a first year student in the Department of Linguistics and English Language, 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 in which you want to specialise.

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](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

Second and final year modules

We have more than 25 second- and third-year modules for you to choose from. They cover a whole 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.

**Are you interested in the sounds of language and in speech therapy?**

- English Phonetics
- Sounds of the World’s Languages
- 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?**

- Discourse Analysis: Looking at Language in Use
- Stylistics
- Understanding Media
- The Language of Advertising
- Forensic Linguistics
- Introduction to Computational Linguistics
- Work Placement Module

**Learn more about the relationship between language and cognition:**

- Child Language Acquisition
- Psycholinguistics
- Language, Culture and Thought

**Do you wish to become a language teacher? Are you fascinated by education in general?**

- Child Language Acquisition
- Language and Pedagogic Practice
- Schools Volunteering Module

**Do you want to further your understanding of language variation and change?**

- Language Variation and Change in English
- Corpus-based English Language Studies
- Language and Identities

There is also ample opportunity for you to carry out some research on your own:

- 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

Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information. [www.lancaster.ac.uk](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk)
Three recent additions to our curriculum

Forensic linguistics

What kinds of language data can be used as forensic evidence in court? Can we tell who wrote a text based on their choice of words, grammar or handwriting? Are voices individual like fingerprints? This module looks at specific court cases and the kinds of linguistic data that have been used in each one. Focussing on specific problems from both text and audio recorded evidence you will learn the techniques used in real case work. The module also covers theoretical aspects to forensic linguistic analysis such as the extent to which we can tell if a suspect or witness is lying in court, or the status of different kinds of evidence in particular trials. This module has been designed to specifically link to real world issues, and the use of linguistic analysis in potential career paths.

Language, culture and thought

Does the language we speak affect the way we think? And as a result, do speakers with different cultural and linguistic backgrounds think differently? These questions form the core of the so-called linguistic relativity hypothesis, a central topic in modern cognitive science. This module combines classic philosophical approaches with recent state-of-the-art experimental evidence to address linguistic relativity. We begin by laying down the foundation of the cognitive mechanisms underpinning the interaction between language and thought, such as working memory, semantic memory, and the structure and nature of meaning representations in the brain. The module then examines in detail the different ways in which language may affect thinking and give rise to cross-cultural and cross-linguistic differences between different populations, different individuals, and during first and second language development.

Introduction to computational linguistics

How do computers interpret language? What is happening under the hood of technologies like Siri and Google voice recognition? Human language plays a central role in artificial intelligence and a wide variety of other technologies. This module introduces students to the kinds of skills and concepts that contribute towards the development of technologies operating in our society. It takes a critical look at the inner mechanisms and performances of language technologies and considers how we could improve them. The module aims to offer an insight into the ideas and tasks that are carried out in research and development departments within the technology industry.

In one of my placements, I work with a professor, a PhD student and three other enthusiastic undergraduates to conduct a dyslexia meta-analysis. In another one, I am going to explore how linguistic methodologies can be used in psychological research. These placements give me opportunities to learn about specific areas of my interest a lot deeper than my course would require and acquire some skills that will be very useful in the future.

Extracurricular activities not only give you a chance to learn more about your subject, but also help you meet people with similar interests. Linguistics and English Language Society (LAELSoc) holds talks from professors from other universities, and also builds community by organising socials and fundraising events.

Eszter Tóth
BA Hons Psychology and Linguistics, Year 3

Studying Linguistics at Lancaster enables you to understand how Linguistics knowledge can be used outside of the academic environment and makes you fall in love with at least one sub-field. Even in first year, a wide range of topics is covered, and due to the personal attention tutors provide it is easy to find what you are passionate about and learn more about it. I personally find Psycholinguistics the most exciting area, but I am also interested in minority languages.
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.

Professor 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 professional 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.

Professor 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
Global Director of Communications, Aaqua

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.
Professional experience

Take advantage of our various opportunities to gain valuable work experience during your degree.

Research internships - 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 during term-time, 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.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences internships

As a student with us, you can apply to the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) Internship Scheme that offers exclusive opportunities that are ring-fenced for students in the Faculty. A myriad of paid, sector-specific internships are available each year in the summer vacation and part-time during term time. Just to give you a taster, some of the past employers include Carnegie Publishing, Lancaster Arts, More Music, The Dukes Theatre, Comma Press, Deco Publique, Crowberry Consulting, Fairfield Association, Active Lancashire and the National Trust.

Discover more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/FASS-placements

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.

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

Working with Professor 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.

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.

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 make the most of these internships.

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.
Your future career

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 internships and other opportunities throughout your degree that enable you to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your future career path.

Placement year degrees

With all of our degrees (excluding the study abroad variant) you can apply for a placement year, where you apply to spend Year 3 working in a professional, paid role in a sector of your choice. Placement applications are competitive, so to give you the best chance of success, you’ll be supported throughout the process by our team; including personalised coaching and support throughout your second year. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

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:
+ 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

Daniella Costa
BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics, 2018
Bilingual Speech and Language Therapist

By being part of the BA Hons English Language and Linguistics degree cohort, I gained an invaluable set of transferable skills, analytical skills, and a breadth of knowledge on the phenomenon of language use from a wide spectrum of course modules.

The English Phonetics, Child Language Acquisition, and Psycholinguistics modules first introduced me to the existence of language and communication disorders and in turn, piqued my interest in the profession of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT). My theoretical background, combined with my work-shadowing experience as part of the Career Mentoring Programme prepared me to undertake a Masters degree in SLT.

As a newly qualified Speech and Language Therapist, I find that my aforementioned Linguistics knowledge is advantageous to the steps required in clinical practice, from receiving a referral to end of episode care. In my experience with a paediatric caseload, the linkage between Linguistics and Speech and Language Therapy is particularly evident when conducting assessments and delivering therapeutic interventions. For example, children’s speech is often formally assessed using broad or narrow phonetic transcription and, in terms of interventions, there are several that are underpinned by linguistic theories. One example is the popular early language intervention known as the ‘Hanen Programme: More than Words’ which is based on a social-pragmatic theory of language acquisition.

Daniella Costa
BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics, 2018
Bilingual Speech and Language Therapist

Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2023–24 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2022). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University’s reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University’s liability can be found in the Student Contract at www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

Joint 7th in the UK for Linguistics graduate prospects
Complete University Guide 2023