Welcome

Professor Uta Papen
Head of Department

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 (15th in the 2021 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. Not surprisingly, we are ranked joint 1st in the UK for student satisfaction in the Complete University Guide 2021.

We are also ranked 2nd in the UK for graduate prospects (Complete University Guide 2021), 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.

Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure.
Your place to explore
Linguistics and English Language

#2
Ranked 2nd in the UK for Linguistics graduate prospects
Complete University Guide 2021

#3
Ranked 3rd in the UK for Linguistics
Complete University Guide 2021

#15
Ranked 15th in the world for Linguistics
QS World University Rankings 2021

+ 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, graduated 2020

Think
independently

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

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Please see our website for information about required subjects and grades. We welcome applications from students with a range of alternative UK and international qualifications. Further guidance can be found at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/entry-requirements](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/entry-requirements)

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

Teaching and learning

We are a large Linguistics and English Language department, and our academics cover a wide range of different specialisms. They will teach you from day one in classes designed to challenge you, but you’ll greatly benefit from their expertise during your lectures, seminars, tutorials, and supervisions.

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

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. 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), Year 3

We partner with institutions around the world. Potential destinations for your study abroad experience currently include Australia, Belgium, 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.
Degree Structure
BA (Hons) Linguistics

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.

Year 2

Core modules

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
+ Language Origins and Evolution

Year 3

Core modules

Optional modules

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

Degree Structure
BA (Hons) English Language

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 module
English Language

Optional module
eg. Linguistics

Minor module

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

Year 2

Core modules

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

Optional modules

You can choose from more than 20 third- and second-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

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

Core module
English Literature

Find out more about this module on page 14

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

English Language

Option 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

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 1900

You can choose from more than 10 second-year Linguistics and English Language modules. Examples include:
- Language and Identities
- Language Change in English and Beyond
- The Language of Advertising

Year 3

English Language

Optional modules

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

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
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.

For further information about each of our modules, please visit: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

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
- Advanced English Phonetics
- Topics in Phonetic and Phonological Theory

Do you wish to become a language teacher? Are you fascinated by education in general?  
- Literacy and Education
- Language and Pedagogic Practice
- Schools Volunteering Module

Do you want to further your understanding of language variation and change?  
- Language Change in English and Beyond
- Language Origins and Evolution
- Language and Identities: Gender, Ethnicity and Class*

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

Learn more about the relationship between language and cognition:  
- 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. either in term 1 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 module descriptions at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study).
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, graduated 2020
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 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.

**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
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.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics
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. You can read more about some of these on page 22.

Placement year degrees
With all of our degrees (excluding the study abroad variant) you can apply for a placement year, where you would 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 on offer 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

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.

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
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

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

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.

Volunteering and the Lancaster Award

Kristina Kleismane
BA (Hons) English Language and German Studies, worked as a TRINITY intern in her final 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.

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

Important information

The information in this booklet relates primarily to 2022/23 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of publication in June 2021. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after publication. 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.