Linguistics and English language
Postgraduate studies
Why study Linguistics at Lancaster?

The Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University has consistently been ranked among the best in the world. In 2022, we came 12th in the QS World University Rankings. We are the largest Linguistics Department in England, offering an unrivalled range of expertise, particularly in empirical and applied aspects of linguistics.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
We specialise in the following areas:
Corpus Linguistics
Cognitive Linguistics
Language Learning
Language Teaching (TESOL)
Language Testing
Discourse Analysis
Pragmatics
Speech Science

We are equipped with four state-of-the-art labs:
Child language laboratory
EEG laboratory
Eye-tracking laboratory
Phonetics laboratory

And have a large research centre for corpus linguistics with one of the best collections of digital corpora in the world.
“We look forward to welcoming you to the world of Linguistics at Lancaster!”

— Professor Jonathan Culpeper, Head of the Department.

Students who do our postgraduate degrees (MAs, PgCerts and PhDs), join the largest community of postgraduate Linguistic students in the UK – approximately 300 students at any one time. This creates a vibrant community of international scholars.
The Linguistics department at Lancaster is internationally renowned for its research and innovation in a wide range of fields.

It came 1st for Graduate Prospects and 7th for Linguistics in the UK in The Complete University Guide 2022.
Lancaster University opened in 1964 with an intake of just 330 students; today it is a major research university with over 15,000 students from all over the world.

It is a campus university— it is 3 miles from the city centre and spans across 500 acres of parkland.

In 2021, it was ranked one of the top 10 universities in the UK by The Independent, The Guardian, and The Times.
Lancaster began as a Roman settlement on the banks of the river Lune.

It is next to the Lake District and Morecambe Bay, areas of outstanding natural beauty.

It has a large, medieval castle where executions were held. It is now owned by the Queen, and is no longer used for this purpose (phew)!
At Lancaster, you can find the right programme for you regardless of your background or previous experience. You can study on campus or online, full time or part-time.

**On campus MA programmes**

MA Applied Linguistics and TESOL
MA Discourse Studies
MA Intercultural Communication
MA Language and Linguistics

**Online (distance) programmes**

MA/PgCert Corpus Linguistics
MA/PgCert Language Testing
MA TESOL with Corpus linguistics
MA TESOL with Language Testing
PgCert TESOL
Applied Linguistics and TESOL (MA)
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/applied-linguistics-and-tesol-ma/

This degree provides a programme is suitable for those currently working as language teachers, those who plan to work as language teachers in the future, and those who simply have a strong interest in language learning and teaching. Core modules cover key themes of linguistics and academic study skills, complemented by optional modules that can be chosen from a range of specialised or broader topics.

Discourse Studies (MA)
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/discourse-studies-ma/

This programme includes three core modules which cover key theories, methods, and applications of Discourse Studies. The fourth core module is on Research Methods in Linguistics and English Language, which provides an essential grounding in the research skills you will be using in the programme.

You will develop skills in discourse analysis, drawing on a range of methodological sources: pragmatics and conversation analysis, argumentation theory, functional grammar, cognitive linguistics, and corpus linguistics. As part of your coursework, you will have the opportunity to apply these skills by analysing a range of spoken and written data from different social contexts including politics, media, literature, and education.
Language and Linguistics (MA)
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/language-and-linguistics-ma/

This flexible programme allows you to develop your specialist interests in a particular area or to combine different areas of study in Language and Linguistics. There is one core module on Research Methods in Linguistics and English Language, which provides an essential grounding in the various research skills and methods involved in studying language. There is a wide choice of optional modules, enabling you to tailor the programme to your own interests. You may choose to specialise in a particular area of Language and Linguistics by selecting modules relating to different themes.

Intercultural Communication (MA)
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/intercultural-communication-ma/

This programme deepens an understanding of communication across cultures by drawing on both linguistic and social theory. You will take two core modules on intercultural communication which discusses subjects such as business, education and health. You will also complete one core module on Research Methods in Linguistics and English Language, which provides an essential grounding in the research skills you will be using in the programme. This programme culminates in a 12,500-word dissertation about a topic of your choosing related to Intercultural Communication.
Our distance learning postgraduate courses are aimed at those wishing to enhance their careers from home, work, wherever and whenever is convenient. You can gain relevant knowledge and skills by studying alongside your ongoing professional and personal commitments.

**Corpus Linguistics (MA/PgCert)**
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/masters-level/corpus-linguistics-distance-ma/

We offer one-year PGCert and two-year MA programme in Corpus linguistics. You will develop core skills that will allow you to analyse large amounts of linguistic data (corpora) using cutting-edge computational technology. In addition, you will learn how to collect and compile your own corpora and will discover new things about the structure of the English language.
Corpus linguistics: MOOC entry route (MA/PgCert)
https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/corpus-linguistics

This programme offers you an opportunity to take a free eight-week MOOC in Corpus linguistics and then join either the MA or the PGCert programme in corpus linguistics and have the MOOC counted as a module on the programme. This gives you the possibility to try learning corpus linguistics for free for one term without any obligations and then decide if you’d like to study corpus linguistics at Lancaster for a full degree.

Language Testing (MA/PgCert)
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/language-testing-distance-pgcert/

We offer one-year PGCert and two-year MA programme in Language testing. These programmes will give you a solid grounding in language test design, construction and evaluation. We aim to support you in creating testing and evaluation procedures and policy within your own context that conform to international standards of validity and reliability. The programmes consider major developments in language testing in recent years and reflect current thinking and good practice.

PATH TO A LANCASTER DEGREE...
TESOL with Corpus linguistics (MA)

This innovative course is designed for prospective and experienced language teachers and language professionals. In the course, you will learn about applications of corpora for a variety of areas of language teaching such as English for Specific Purposes and teaching materials development. The course allows you to focus your coursework and dissertation on issues and problems pertinent to your own professional context.

TESOL with Language testing (MA)

This course is designed for language teachers who, in addition to broadening their knowledge-base on second language learning and up-to-date teaching methodology, want to gain expertise in second language test construction and evaluation. We aim to equip you with up-to-date knowledge and skills that will enable you to work in a variety of language teaching and assessment contexts.

TESOL with Language testing (PgCert)

This course is suitable for prospective and experienced language teachers and language professionals who have an interest in second language learning and teaching in classroom contexts and at wider national and international levels. We aim to equip you with up-to-date knowledge and skills that will enable you to work in a variety of language teaching contexts. On successful completion, this course allows progression to one of our Master level courses: MA in TESOL with Language Testing (one year teaching / assessment experience is required) or MA in TESOL with Corpus Linguistics (no teaching experience is required).
Master
MA degrees are taught programmes with several optional modules. They allow you to develop knowledge in specific areas and acquire transferable research skills. It includes a dissertation, in which you explore a topic of your interest.

What is the difference between a Master and a Postgraduate Certificate?

PgCert
Postgraduate Certificates are similar to MA programmes and cover the same core topics, only on a smaller scale. PG programmes are taught online, and do not include the dissertation component. You can still choose to pursue an MA after completing a Postgraduate Certificate.
Why did you decide to study language and linguistics at Lancaster?

I was very interested in pragmatics, and more specifically linguistic (im)politeness during my MA study, and I referenced a lot of Jonathan Culpeper’s work on (im)politeness. That was when I noticed that authors of many famous books I had read, such as Geoffrey Leech and Gu Yueguo, were all from Lancaster University. Then I learned that linguistics at Lancaster had always ranked high within the UK and in the world, and many brilliant linguists studied or worked at Lancaster.

I began to have this goal of becoming a linguist. I wanted a career where I can study fascinating pragmatic phenomena in languages, and I wanted to become one of the best, just like those brilliant linguists who have inspired me. I decided to do a PhD in linguistics with a focus on mock impoliteness. I thought it would be amazing if I can work with Jonathan, so I reached out and applied for the PhD programme at Lancaster University. The day I was offered a place in the programme, I was beyond excitement.
Sam Oliver
PhD in Linguistics

What is your experience studying at Lancaster?
There are so many different intellectual interests represented: in the department’s postgraduate conference last year, we attracted hundreds of other postgraduates from around the world to come and attend a two-day conference that we organised on everything from Second Language Acquisition to Psycholinguistics, and Discourse Studies to Pragmatics. There are so many opportunities to get involved in research groups, projects, and real research. It’s an excellent choice for a linguistics postgraduate degree!

Ayako Aizawa
MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL

Why did you decide to study language and linguistics at Lancaster?
Not only the high reputation in linguistics but also many papers I have read were written by faculty members and alumni of Lancaster University and felt Lancaster is the right place for me to do my MA to build the foundation as a researcher. I also believe that theory and practice are inseparable, and MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL offers both types of modules, which was a perfect fit for me.
Can you tell us a little bit about your background and research interests?
Applying for this program represents a major pivot in my life—I already have a PhD in genetics and worked for several years as a researcher in a lab. But something was missing for me and a few years ago, I stepped away from the bench and turned towards the communication side of science, spending a few years helping scientists edit and revise papers for publication, which led to my current position, teaching academic writing to English language learners.

Why have you applied to study MA in Corpus linguistics at Lancaster University?
My career goal is to have a position in academia that combines teaching, research and supervision of graduate students, but I feel that I need additional qualifications to achieve my goals. I have been contemplating an MA in applied linguistics for several years as a way to acquire research training and qualifications in this field. In parallel, I became aware of Lancaster University as one of the leaders in the field of corpus linguistics by reading literature and taking part in the Corpus Linguistics MOOC on FutureLearn. Last fall, when I saw the announcement for this new distance MA program in corpus linguistics, I knew it was time to apply!
PhD Linguistics by Research Only
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/linguistics-phd/

The traditional thesis-only PhD can be completed on a full or part-time basis. We welcome proposals for doctoral research in any of the Department’s many areas of teaching or research. With over 100 doctoral students studying with us on a full-time or part-time basis, either at Lancaster or off-site, there is a strong doctoral-level research culture in our department.

PhD in Linguistics by thesis and coursework
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/linguistics-by-thesis-and-coursework-phd/

This unique and flexible programme is designed for you to complete your coursework and develop your thesis simultaneously. Initial coursework provides a strong foundation of knowledge and skills as you develop your capacity to engage with theory, critically evaluate previous studies, and carry out independent research.

In your first year, will complete compulsory modules in research methodology and applied linguistics that are taught by distance. In addition, you have the opportunity to take additional modules from the department’s MA programmes and the Faculty’s Research Training Programme.
We also offer specialisation courses for Institutional credit. These are ideal if you need to develop knowledge and skills in a specific area. Each of these courses can be taken separately, run for one term (three months), and are offered online.

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/corpus-linguistics-distance-ma/#structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 (Oct–Dec)</td>
<td>Fundamentals of corpus linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 (Oct–Dec)</td>
<td>Language test construction and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 (Oct–Dec)</td>
<td>Corpus based grammar and vocabulary of English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 (Jan–Mar)</td>
<td>Corpus design and data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 (Jan–Mar)</td>
<td>Using corpora in Language teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 (Jan–Mar)</td>
<td>Corpus-based discourse analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 (Jan–Mar)</td>
<td>Statistical analysis for language testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 (Apr–Jun)</td>
<td>Statistics and data visualization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corpus based discourse analysis
The module offers an in-depth exploration of Corpus based discourse analysis, a prominent area of the application of the corpus method with a very long tradition at Lancaster University. The module provides an overview of different areas in which corpus-based discourse analysis can be employed and a detailed discussion of linguistic and societal implications of these topics as well as relevant social and linguistic theories.

Corpus based grammar and vocabulary
The module offers corpus based description of the grammar and lexicon of the English language. It guides students through grammatical, lexical and lexicogrammatical patterns observed in large general corpora, provides relevant terminology and teaches students how to describe words and grammatical structures.

Corpus design and data collection
The module develops key skills in corpus design and data collection. Building on a long tradition of corpus development at Lancaster University and providing specific examples from recent projects such as the British National Corpus 2014, Guangwai Lancaster Corpus of L2 Chinese or Trinity Lancaster Corpus, the module offers both theoretical knowledge and practical skills for the students to be able to build their own corpus.

Fundamentals of corpus linguistics
The module offers a practical introduction to key corpus linguistic techniques such as concordance analysis, the analysis of wordlists and ngram lists, keyword analysis and collocation analysis. It also provides an overview of practical applications of corpus methods in a wide range of areas of linguistic and social research.
Language test construction and evaluation
This module familiarises you with the ways in which tests are constructed and evaluated. We aim to help you construct language tests and evaluate test items critically.

Statistical analysis for language testing
This module will focus on the theoretical concepts and practical methods in statistical analysis needed to assess the validity and reliability of language tests, to evaluate the performance of the students taking these tests, and to understand the statistical procedures and results that are included in many journal articles and other publications.

Statistics and data visualisation
The module offers a practical introduction to the statistical procedures used for the analysis linguistic data and language corpora. The module provides an overview of the main statistical procedures (e.g. Correlation, cluster analysis and factor analysis, T-test, ANOVA, chi-squared test and regression models) used in the field of corpus linguistics together with examples of application of these methods.

Using corpus in Language teaching
This module is designed to provide students with the knowledge of corpus linguistics that will enable them to bring corpora and corpus resources into their language classrooms. First, it provides the necessary theoretical understanding of the principles of corpus linguistics that underlie the correct use of corpus linguistic techniques. Next, the module will introduce students to a range of available corpus resources such as different types of corpora and tools available for analysing them. In the module, students will be given the opportunity to explore these resources and evaluate their usefulness for different teaching contexts and for different learner needs. Finally, the course will equip students with the practical skills necessary for developing effective classroom materials and activities using corpus linguistics.
A variety of funding options are available and are awarded on a competitive basis.

**Economic and Social Research Council 1 + 3 Awards (NWSSDTP)**
https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/  
https://www.ukri.org/  
Lancaster University forms part of the ESRC's North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP). Each year, around 60 studentships are awarded across the four institutions that make up the partnership for research in areas covered by the ESRC.

**Lancaster Masters Scholarship**
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries/masters-scholarship/

Lancaster University is delighted to announce that we will offer a generous scholarship to students who are liable for Home tuition fees. The scholarship is awarded as a tuition fee waiver for Postgraduate Taught programmes, for 2022 entry and will be automatically awarded if students meet the eligibility criteria and terms and conditions required.

**Departmental MA Scholarships (Fees only)**
The Department offers one fees-only bursary for students wishing to study for a Masters on any of our MA programmes, including both campus-based and by distance programmes. The recipient will need to meet their general living expenses themselves.
Geoffrey Leech Scholarship
This scholarship for MA study was originally set up by the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster to mark the retirement of Professor Geoffrey Leech, who sadly died in August 2014. The scholarship continues thanks to a bequeathment left by Professor Leech. Geoff Leech was one of our most eminent and long-serving colleagues and was internationally renowned for his pioneering work in modern English grammar, stylistics, pragmatics and corpus linguistics. As co-author of the Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language and the Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English, he was, and remains, one of the foremost authorities on the English language. The scholarship is for any of our MA programmes, both campus-based and by distance. The recipient will need to meet their general living

Lancaster Global Scholarship
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries/global-scholarship/

Lancaster University is delighted to announce that we will offer a generous scholarship to high-achieving students from all international countries, who are liable for International tuition fees. The scholarship is awarded as a tuition fee waiver for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught programmes for 2022 entry and will be automatically awarded if students meet the eligibility criteria and terms and conditions outlined on our website.
The Peel Trust Studentship
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/student-based-services/money/funding/the-peel-trust-studentship
The Peel Studentship Trust was established in 1964, by donations from the Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust. The awards are available for the support of students for first or higher degrees, in any subject. The period of the award is one academic year, although students can apply each year. The value of the award is determined by the Trustees in each case, up to an individual maximum of £2500.

Alumni Loyalty Scholarship
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-fees-and-funding/postgraduate-scholarships-&-bursaries/
Lancaster University will offer a reduction in tuition fees to all taught masters programmes for eligible applicants, determined by the level of undergraduate or postgraduate award achieved. You do not need to apply for this scholarship, you will qualify automatically if you meet the eligibility criteria and the course entry requirements.

Postgraduate Loan Scheme
https://www.gov.uk/masters-loan
This loan was introduced in the 2016/2017 academic year by HMRC. Eligibility as well as amount of money attainable is dependent on several factors such as residential status, age, and the nature of your course. It is paid in three instalments over the duration of your degree, and can be up to £11,570.

To find out whether you are eligible for MA funding, and for more information, visit our website:
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/masters-level/
Arts and Humanities Research Council Studentships (NWCDTP)
http://www.nwcdtp.ac.uk/
https://www.ukri.org/
Lancaster University forms part of the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP). Each year, approximately 50 studentships are awarded across the seven institutions that make up the consortium for research in areas covered by the AHRC.

Economic and Social Research Council Studentships (NWSSDTP)
https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/
https://www.ukri.org/
Lancaster University forms part of the ESRC's North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP). Each year, around 60 studentships are awarded across the four institutions that make up the partnership for research in areas covered by the ESRC.

We also have two new upcoming scholarships for PhD students: Faculty Studentships and EAP Studentship Award.
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/arts-and-social-sciences/

To find out whether you are eligible for PhD funding, and more information, visit our website: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/phd/
How do I apply for Lancaster’s programmes?

Applying to our programmes is easy, and only takes about 5-10 minutes. Simply choose the programme you want, and apply online at: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/applying-for-postgraduate-study/

Contact Us
Considering different options? Need more information?

Get in touch with us at: postgraduatelinguistics@lancaster.ac.uk