Linguistics and English language
Postgraduate Studies 2023
Welcome

Lancaster University has consistently been ranked among the best in the world. In 2022, we came 12th in the QS World University Rankings.
Teaching and Learning

**Our facilities**

- Child language laboratory
- EEG laboratory
- Language Learning
- Language Teaching (TESOL)
- Discourse Analysis
- Speech Science

We have a large research centre with one of the best collections of digital corpora in the world.

We specialise in the following areas:

- Corpus Linguistics
- Cognitive Linguistics
- Language Learning
- Language Teaching (TESOL)
- Language Testing
- Discourse Analysis
- Pragmatics
- Speech Science

**Our community**

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.

**Our department**

- language resource, the latest version of which we released at for a variety of research projects.

**Our university**

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.

**Our city**

In 2021, it was ranked one of the top 10 universities in the UK by The Independent, The Guardian, and The Times.

The banks of the river Lune.

Bay, areas of outstanding natural beauty.

It has a large, medieval castle where executions were held. It is now owned by the King, and is no longer used for this purpose (phew)!
Our Programmes

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

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.

• MA/PgCert Corpus Linguistics
• MA/PgCert Language Testing
• MA TESOL with Corpus Linguistics
• MA TESOL with Language Testing
• PgCert TESOL

“We look forward to welcoming you to the world” — Professor Jonathan Culpeper, Head of the Department.

On-Campus Programmes

Applied Linguistics and TESOL MA

This degree provides a programme 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.

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.

This degree provides a programme 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.

Intercultural Communication MA

This programme culminates in a 12,500-word dissertation about a topic of your choosing related to Intercultural Communication.

Language and Linguistics MA

This programme includes three core modules which cover key theories, methods, and applications of Intercultural Communication. 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.

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.

This degree provides a programme 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.
Online Programmes

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**

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**


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**

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.

This innovative course is designed for prospective and experienced language teachers and language professionals. In the course, you will learn about teachers and language professionals. In the course, you will learn about

**TESOL with Corpus Linguistics MA**


**TESOL with Language Testing MA**


**TESOL with Language Testing PgCert**


language professionals who have an interest in second language learning and

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).
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 Geoffrery Leech and Gu Yueguo, were all from Lancaster University. Gu Yueguo, were all from Lancaster University. 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.

What is the difference between an MA and a Postgraduate Certificate?

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.

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.

Scholarships and Funding

At Lancaster, we are investing in the future of our students by enabling future of our students by enabling any student with the talent to thrive. The scholarship and funding web pages provide details of current funding opportunities for Masters and PhD students.
Sam

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!

Sam Oliver
PhD in Linguistics

Ayako

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.

Ayako Aizawa
MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL

Alexandra

Can you tell us a little bit about your background and research interests?

Alexandra has received a bursary to take our Corpus Linguistics (Distance) MA.

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 being a language and communication expert, 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.

Alexandra Terashim
Corpus Linguistics (Distance) MA

Alexandra

Why have you applied to study MA in Corpus linguistics at Lancaster University?

I am now working in academia that combines teaching, research and supervision of graduate students and 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 a way to acquire research training and 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!

Alexandra Terashim
Corpus Linguistics (Distance) MA
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, you 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.

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 Programmes

Individual Courses (for credit)

PhD in Linguistics by thesis and coursework

PhD in Linguistics by research only

Individual Courses (for credit)

Corpus Linguistics courses

• Fundamentals of corpus linguistics (Term 1: Oct–Dec)
• Corpus based grammar and vocabulary of English (Term 1: Oct–Dec)
• Corpus design and data collection (Term 2: Jan–Mar)
• Corpus based discourse analysis (Term 2: Jan–Mar)
• Using corpora in Language teaching (Term 2: Jan–Mar)
• Statistics and data visualization (Term 3: Apr–Jun)

Language Testing courses

• Language test construction and evaluation (Term 1: Oct–Dec)
• Statistical analysis for language testing (Term 2: Jan–Mar)
• Issues in language testing (Term 3: Apr–Jun)

View our individual courses for credit
How to apply

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/