

Linguistics

at university



Where can I study linguistics?

There is plenty of choice. Linguistics can be studied as a single honours programme or as part of a joint or combined honours degree course.

A list of courses in linguistics can be found on the **Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies** website. For details see the **Find out more** section.

What sorts of things does a degree in linguistics cover?

The range and depth of modules you will study will depend on the programme you have chosen and the weighting of the linguistics component. Clearly you will acquire greater depth and breadth of knowledge if you study linguistics as single honours degree than as a minor part of a combined honours degree.

The basic components include **morphology** (structure of the language); **syntax** (the grammatical arrangement of words in sentences); **phonetics** (the analysis, description, and classification of speech sounds); **phonology** (the speech patterns and rules that apply to those sounds); **semantics** (the meaning of words, expressions and sentences), **pragmatics** (study

of the contribution of contextual factors to the meaning of those words). You can go on to study a wide range of topics in more detail. Some examples might include **psycholinguistics** (the psychology of language development and use); **historical linguistics** (language change); **sociolinguistics** (how language is used by different societal groups and across various social situations); **applied linguistics** (using linguistic theory to address real-world problems such as language education and second language acquisition); **cognitive linguistics** (the relationship between language and the mind); **stylistics** (the study of styles used in literary and verbal language) and **discourse analysis** (analysis of language beyond the sentence).

What sorts of subjects can you study with linguistics?

By far the most common combinations are linguistics and one or more modern languages with the weighting going either way – the study of a modern foreign language can support the study of linguistics and vice versa. Combinations with English language and literature are also popular – this may include the study of teaching English as a Foreign Language. Degrees in cognitive science and artificial intelligence usually include a lot of linguistics.

Interestingly, opportunities to study linguistics

with computing-related courses (including computer science, Information Technology, artificial intelligence, business computing) are just as common as studying linguistics alongside arts subjects such as literature or philosophy. Combinations with social sciences such as psychology and sociology are also common. The wealth of possible combinations reflects the variety of the many branches within linguistics. A selection of combinations found using the UCAS Course Search facility are shown below.

Business	Drama	Computing/ Technology subjects	Education
English (Including English Language Teaching)	Geography	Literature	Law
Mathematics	Philosophy	Politics	Psychology
Religious studies/Theology/ Divinity	Sociology	Languages (ancient and modern)	Try searching UCAS for yourself – there are many more possible combinations.



What sort of jobs do graduates in linguistics do?

Specific examples of careers where a degree in linguistics is relevant are listed below. Most of these require further training following your degree in linguistics.

- speech and language therapist;
- education including primary and secondary teaching as well as teaching English as a foreign language;
- computer programming and software design;
- careers in research;
- publishing and journalism.

It is important to note that many career opportunities are open to graduates of any discipline. As a linguist, you will have developed a wide range of skills as part of your study including:

- data collection methods and analysis and evaluation of data;
- analysis and awareness of language and its use;
- organisation and presentation of text;
- formulating and presenting ideas.

Find out more

The following links will help you to find out more about studying linguistics at university.

Why study linguistics?

The Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) and the Linguistic Society of America (LAS) both have websites which provide a lot more information about linguistics including the lowdown on the different branches of linguistics. www.lsadc.org and www.lagb.org.uk

University courses

The Subject Centre website includes a list of some courses in Linguistics, with direct links to the university departments, which will give you an idea of what is available.

www.llas.ac.uk/linguisticsitem.aspx?resourceid=129

The University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) handles undergraduate applications to study at university. The website has a powerful and flexible search function. UCAS also produce a range of print publications about applying for degree courses.

www.ucas.ac.uk

Aim Higher is a portal which has been developed to provide those contemplating entering Higher Education with access to the necessary information from which to make effective decisions and offers an entry point that enables prospective students to seek information about higher education institutions and courses.

www.aimhigher.ac.uk

The CourseSource and **Hot Courses** both list all UK degree courses, searchable by subject, region, college or university www.thecoursesource.co.uk and www.hotcourses.com

The Independent newspaper has produced an A–Z of degrees which covers Linguistics. They also have an A–Z of colleges and universities.

<http://education.independent.co.uk/higher>

Careers

The Careers Portal gives information on getting into higher education, the low down on a range of careers and lists of professional organisations that collect information on careers, and a job search facility.

www.careers-portal.co.uk

A wide range of careers publications are available from

Trotman Publishing.

www.trotman.co.uk



Further information

For further information about the range of services offered by CILT, please contact:

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